

# THE LIFE OF CHRIST



IN · WORDS · OF · ONE · SYLLABLE

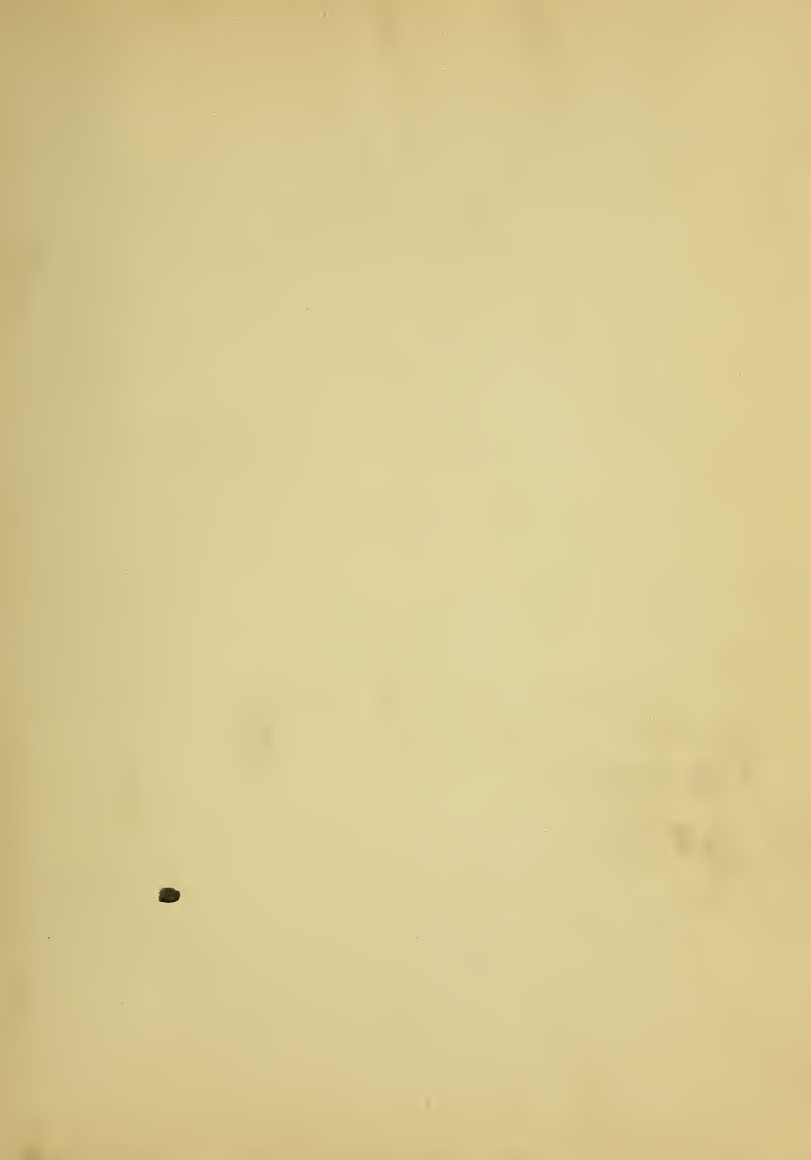


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SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME.

*Mark x. 14-16.*

# THE LIFE OF CHRIST

RETOLD IN WORDS OF ONE SYLLABLE.

By JEAN S. RÉMY.



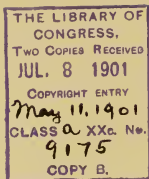
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By JEAN S. RÉMY.

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# THE LIFE OF CHRIST.

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## CHAPTER I.

### THE FIRST CHRIST-MAS.

THE word Christ-mas, now rings, with a glad sound, far and wide in this great world ; and the day is kept with mirth and joy, as the birth-day of Je-sus, the Christ-child. When you have read of His sweet, pure life, full of good deeds and kind thoughts, a new joy will fill your hearts as you keep the day of His birth. Let us see just how the first Christ-mas of all was kept.

It is now two thou-sand (2000) years since God sent the an-gel Ga-bri-el to the town of Gal-i-lee in the land of Beth-le-hem ; his work here was to bear the word of God to a young maid whose name was Ma-ry. So fair and sweet was Ma-ry, so kind and good, that all who knew her, loved her well. She was a poor girl, and knew what it was to work hard ; but the blood of kings ran in her veins ; straight from the house of Da-vid, that great king of the Jews, Ma-ry could trace her birth.

The name of the an-gel whom God sent to Ma-ry means the Might of God ; but we can-not think that he came but in might and pow-er to Ma-ry, for his first words were :



"Fear not, Ma-ry." A great peace filled the young girl's heart, though there was awe as well ; for she knew she was to hear the word of God. It was a strange, sweet thing



"Fear not, Ma-ry," spake the an-gel as he told her she was to be the moth-er of the child Jesus.

that Ga-bri-el had to tell Ma-ry—that she was to have a son, whose work would be to save the whole world from sin. Ga-bri-el said she must name her child Je-sus, and that He would be known as the son of God. The wise men of the



Jews had told of Him through long years ; and Ad-am and Eve had known He would come to earth to save men from the sin which they had brought in-to the world. When Ma-ry heard the words of Ga-bri-el, she fell on her knees and hid her face from his sight, as she said in a meek, low voice :—" Let it be with me as the Lord wills."

The Jews, at this time, were ruled by the Ro-mans ; and the Ro-man king, Her-od, was a bad man, who had no love for the Jews, and made harsh laws, which they were forced to keep. One of these laws was that all the Jews must go to the town from which the head of the house came, so that the Ro-mans could count them and then make them pay a tax. Ma-ry was the wife of Jo-seph, a car-pen-ter in Gal-i-lee, who, like her, came from the house of Da-vid. Beth-le-hem was the town of the great king, so it was here that the two went to be taxed, and here that the first Christ-mas Day was kept.

Beth-le-hem was a long way from Gal-i-lee, and the road there was rough and wild ; up and down high hills, where sharp stones cut the tired feet, and o-ver broad plains on which the dust lay thick and fine. The lit-tle band of Jews that went with Jo-seph and Ma-ry were, at least, a week on this long trip. You can see that Ma-ry, the young wife, must have been tired and worn, when, at the close of one long day, they climbed the last steep hill and reached Beth-le-hem.

Crowds filled the lit-tle town, and no place could be found for Jo-seph and Ma-ry in the one small inn. In vain, Jo-seph went from house to house to find a place of rest ; all were full. It was dark and cold ; the night came on fast, and still Jo-seph did not know what to do with his poor, young wife. Back of the inn was a barn in which

the farm beasts were kept; it was a rough, rude place—just a cave in the side of a rock; water dripped from the stone sides, and on the damp mud floor was the straw on which the beasts slept. The man who owned the inn told Jo-seph that he and his wife might come here, and he gave them a small, flat lamp of clay that at least a dim light might shine in the dark, damp place.

Too tired to know or care, with but one wish, to find rest and warmth, Ma-ry lay down on the straw in the rude barn, and here was born the dear Christ-child to whom we now raise glad songs of love and praise. There was no bed in the barn, so the ba-by was laid in the man-ger or bin in which hay was kept for the beasts to eat. The birth-place of Je-sus could not have been more mean and poor; but it was not the will of God that none should bow the knee to Him and know Him for their king.

On the fields near Beth-le-hem were some men called shepherds with their sheep; as they kept their watch a great light, far more bright than the rise of sun or moon, broke in the clear sky and shone round them; in the midst of the light stood an an-gel. Fear filled their hearts, but the an-gel said: "Fear not; I bring you glad news; there is born this day in the town of Da-vid a Sa-viour who is Christ the Lord. You shall know Him by this sign; He is wrapped in long bands and laid in the man-ger from which the beasts feed."

As these glad words filled their ears, the dazed men saw a host of an-gels join the first one. Then the still night air rang with a great song of joy, the words of which now sound in our Christ-mas songs: "Glo-ry be to God on high;—on earth peace, good-will to men." As soon as the an-gel host had gone, the men left their sheep and went in haste to Beth-le-hem to see the child of whom the an-gels sang.

It was not hard to find the spot where the Christ-child lay, for there was but one ba-by in Beth-le-hem whose bed was in a barn.



It was a strange sight for Ma-ry when the shep-herds came to see her lit-tle child and bow down to Him as their king

It was a strange sight on which Ma-ry looked when these men came in the cave to see her lit-tle child and bow down to Him as their king. The dim light of her lamp shone on a group of big, strong men, dressed in rough, warm clothes,

with cloaks made from the skins of sheep; they had come in such haste that they may have still held in their hands the big sticks with which they fought off the wild beasts who tried to harm their sheep.

Such were the men who first knew Je-sus as their king. While they knelt at His feet, they told Ma-ry all that the an-gel had said of her child, and when they left her they bore the glad word to all whom they met. The news spread far and wide, for the crowds that filled the town of Beth-le-hem came from all parts of the land, and of course all took the strange tale back to their homes.

Such was the way in which the first Christ-mas was kept—a ba-by in a man-ger, watched by the sweet Ma-ry and the wise, kind Jo-seph; a burst of song from an an-gel host, and a group of shep-herds bowed low at the feet of their king.

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## CHAPTER II.

### THE WISE MEN.

LONG years be-fore the birth of Je-sus, the Jews had lost their pow-er and were slaves in a strange land. Some of their wise men then had said that one day a child should be born of the house of Da-vid, who would rule not on-ly the Jews, but the whole world.

Through all the long, hard years the Jews had kept these words in their minds, and their wise men did not cease to watch for the being who was to free them from their foes and make their race once more strong and great. Now, to some rich, wise men in the far east, God sent a sign to show



them that the new King of the Jews had come to earth. A strange star, large and bright, shone out in the sky on one dark night, and God put it in the hearts of these wise men to know that the star would lead them to their king. So great was their faith, so deep their joy, that at once they laid by their books in which they had learned much of the stars, the sun and the moon ; each man put an end to all his work, and made haste to start on the search for the king. They were men of great wealth, and bore rich gifts of gold, rare gems and sweet spices—such gifts as are laid at the feet of the great kings of the earth. They rode on cam-els, for long and hard was the way that led from the far east to Beth-le-hem.

The star led them to-ward the west, and at last they came to the great city of Je-ru-salem ; here the bad and cru-el King Her-od lived. To his ears came the cry of the wise men, “ Where is He that is born King of the Jews? We have seen His star in the east, and we wish to find Him and lay our gifts at His feet.”

Now these words did not please Her-od ; he knew that the Jews did not like him and would be glad to see a new king on his throne, so he made up his mind to kill this young child lest the Jews should one day crown Him as their king. With this bad thought in his mind, he sent for the priests and the wise men in his own land, and asked them where this child was who was called King of the Jews. He learned that it was in Beth-le-hem ; then he told the wise men from the east where they could find the child, and asked them when they had paid their vows to come back to him and tell him just where He was, that he too might lay rare gifts at His feet and kneel to Him in praise.

On went the wise men, with the star still as their guide ;

at last the star stood still in the sky, and the wise men knew that their long search had come to an end, and that they had found Him whom they had come so far to seek.



“The Christ-child lay in His moth-er’s arms, as the group of wise men came in.”

Je-sus was not now in the rude barn—a house had been found for Jo-seph and Ma-ry and the ba-by boy with kind friends. The Christ-child lay in His moth-er’s arms, as the group of grave men came in. They did not look at all like

the rough shep-herds who had first knelt to Je-sus; their clothes were rich and fine, and in their hands were the rare gifts they had brought from the east, but they knelt with the same awe and love that the shep-herds had done, and they poured forth all their wealth of gold and gems at the feet of the lit-tle ba-by king. Je-sus did not know what the rich gifts meant, but we cannot doubt that Jo-seph and Ma-ry knew that these wise men of the east felt that they knelt at the feet of their king.

God knew of course the bad thought that was in Her-od's heart, and so He told the wise men in a dream not to go back home by way of Je-ru-sa-lem for Her-od must not be told where Je-sus was. So the wise men left Beth-le-hem by a new way, and went to their homes in the far east to tell the tale of the Christ-child in those strange lands. We hear no more of these wise men, but we can-not doubt that they bore the glad news of Je-sus' birth in their hearts as long as they lived, and shared it with all whom they met.

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### CHAPTER III.

#### THE FLIGHT TO E-GYPT.

HER-OD could not think that men lived who would dare not to do as he said; and so he watched for a long time for the wise men to come back with news of Je-sus. As the days slipped past and they did not come, his an-ger grew hot; and his wish to kill the child burned in his bad heart like a fierce fire. At last he knew that there were at least three men in the world who had no fear of him, and were so brave that they would not place in his hands the life or

Je-sus. Then he did such a cru-el thing that it is sad to have to bring it to your minds. He thought of course that Je-sus was still in Beth-le-hem, and he knew that He was



“Her-od sent a band of men and told them to kill all the boy ba-bies not yet two years old.”

less than two years old, so he sent there a band of men and told them to kill all the boy ba-bies not yet two years old. If he could put out of his way this one weak lit-tle child, whom he, a great strong man, so feared, he did not care for all the grief that he sent to the homes in Beth-le-hem.



But Jesus was safe at this sad time, and far from the bad king's power. God had warned Jo-seph in a dream of what Her-od meant to do, and had told him how to care for Je-sus



“ God warned Jo-seph in a dream of what Her-od meant to do, and told him how to care for Je-sus and Ma-ry.”

and Ma-ry. He said that they must steal out of the town by night, and go at once far off to the land of Egypt ; there they must stay till Her-od was dead, when God would send them word.

It was at the dead of night that this word came to Joseph ; he rose at once and called to Ma-ry : “ Rise,” he said ; “ make haste we must take the child and fly in-to Egypt,



“ Jo-seph with Ma-ry and Je-sus pushed on to E-gypt, where they would be safe from Her-od.”

for Her-od, the king, seeks to kill him. God has told me in a dream : come, let us haste, or it will be too late.” You can think what fright must have filled the heart of Ma-ry ; we can see her lift the ba-by from the bed where He lay in

sleep, and, with Him held close in her arms, join Jo-seph, with no thought but to save her little one from a cruel death.

The stars shone bright in the dark night-skies ; the moon, too, may have shed her soft light to help this little band of three flee from the town to which death was to come so soon. Out of the gates they passed, and then, as fast as they could, pushed on to E-gypt, where they would be safe from Her-od.

At the best they could not hope to reach E-gypt in less than a week, and when the long day's march was done they must have laid down to rest on the wide plains of sand over which part of their road lay. The nights were cold, and so no doubt Jo-seph built big bright fires on the sands ; and, while Ma-ry and her child slept, he kept watch to ward off wild beasts or still more cruel men. At the first ray of light they would start and push on with all their might. We may be sure that Ma-ry did not think how tired and worn she was ; her one wish was to put her baby in a safe place, then she would rest, and Jo-seph, too, who was so kind and good ; we may be sure that this big, strong man took good care of his young wife and the little child.

So they came safe in-to E-gypt, and here the baby boy grew strong and well, and was just two years old when God sent Jo-seph word that Her-od was dead and they could now go back to their own land.

## CHAPTER IV.

## JE-SUS—THE BOY.

WHEN God said that it was safe to leave E-gypt, Jo-seph and Ma-ry took Je-sus and went back to their old home in Gal-i-lee. The Bi-ble does not tell us much of this home, nor of the life that Je-sus led there; in fact, it is not till He was twelve years old that we hear of Him once more. So we have to learn of His home and of what He did from books that tell how the rest of the folks in Gal-i-lee lived. In this old land time has not changed things much, and at this day the homes in this far-off land are much the same as they were when Je-sus was a boy. The low, square houses are white, and have flat roofs, round which runs a rail; one gets on the roof by stairs which run up on the out-side of the house. Such must have been the home of Je-sus; in it there was but one room; through its door came in the light and air, for there were no win-dows; a bench on which to sit ran round the sides of the room. Bright-hued rugs or quilts laid on the floor took the place of beds, and on a small, round ta-ble was laid the plain food of those days. The air of Gal-i-lee was so mild and soft all the year long that the fields were ev-er green, bright flow-ers grew on all sides, and bird songs filled the air; Je-sus grew up in a land of flow-ers; ros-es, red and white, grew on the hills that rose on all sides, and all sorts of wild flow-ers smiled on Him as he played in the fields of Gal-i-lee.

If He was brought up as the rest of the boys of those



days, He was five years old when he was first put at books that taught the laws of the land. From then till He was thirteen He was kept at His books; then a boy was thought to be quite a man and did most of the things that a man could. You may be quite sure that with so sweet and kind a mother as Ma-ry the boy-life of Jesus was as full of joy as she could make it.

At the time when Jesus lived on earth the Jews once a year used to leave their farms and their small towns and go up to the great city of Je-ru-sa-lem—the Ho-ly cit-y, as it was called—to keep the Feast of the Pass-o-ver. God had told them to do this that they might keep in their minds the thought of the night when He had led them out of the land of E-gypt, where for long years they had been held as slaves. When Je-sus was twelve years old, Jo-seph and Ma-ry took Him with them on this trip; and it meant just as much to Jesus to see strange, new sights as it would to the boys of this day. In the month of A-pril this great feast was kept, when all the land was fair with the bloom of fruit trees; birds of gay hue filled the soft, spring air with sweet songs as they built their nests in the boughs of the or-ange, fig and ol-ive trees that clothed the hills and plains of Pal-es-tine.

For three days and nights the band of Jews, of which Jo-seph and Ma-ry were a part, pressed on to Je-ru-sa-lem; some rode on cam-els, some on mules or horses, but most of them were on foot. On the morn of the fourth day they saw the great walls of Je-ru-sa-lem—white were they as pure snow, with gleams of gold that shone so bright in the glare of the sun that one at first must shield the eyes. Shouts of joy filled the air and rang to the skies, and as the band climbed the last hill that led to Je-ru-sa-lem they sang the grand old songs which Da-vid, their king, wrote for use

at this great feast. So great was the crowd that poured through the cit-y gates, all could not find place to rest in Je-ru-sa-lem, but had to pitch their tents on the hills that were near-by.

The great temple of Je-ru-sa-lem—the House of God—stood on a high hill in the midst of the cit-y, and was reached by long flights of steps; it was a huge mass of pure white stone (mar-ble) and gold that shone as bright as the sun on high. It was here through one whole week that the feast was kept; up and down the steep stairs the Jews climbed, and each day the great tem-ple was filled to its doors, while crowds stood out-side to wait their turn. The wise men of the Jews sat in the courts of the temple and taught all who wished to hear of the laws of the land and of all else that was asked. Here the child Je-sus came with the rest, and His young mind found much to think of, while His eyes were filled with the beau-ty of the ho-ly place.

On the third day of the week those who wished might go home, and Jo-seph and Ma-ry, with a crowd of their friends, set off at this time. Je-sus was not by his moth-er's side at the start; but when she asked for Him, some one said that He was with some of their friends near at hand. She and Jo-seph felt no fear, and went their way, till the night came; then when Je-sus did not join them fear and grief filled their hearts. They went from group to group in their search for the lost boy, but no one had seen him, and it was with sad hearts that they turned back to Je-ru-sa-lem. Would they find Him sick and tired by the way-side—or was He lost in the streets of the great cit-y? Crowds of Jews were on their way home; but in vain did Jo-seph and Ma-ry ask news of their boy from all whom they met. They came at last to Je-ru-sa-lem, but it was night and they were both

too worn and faint to look for Him till they had at least a few hours' rest.

At break of day they set forth once more; for two long days they walked the cit-y streets and searched the tem-ple; no word, no trace could they find of Je-sus. Faint and sick with grief and fear on the morn of the third day, Ma-ry set out by the side of Jo-seph to-ward the tem-ple; she knew that Je-sus had loved this place, and had still a slight hope that here He might be found.

At one end of a large court a crowd pressed close to a group of wise men, whose eyes were fixed on one who stood in their midst; the poor fath-er and moth-er went with the rest. A hush fell on the crowd, for the voice which rang clear and sweet on their ears was not that of a man, but of a young child, and it was no man to whom the wise man gave heed; it was a boy, clad in the straight white gown of those days, who, with bare head, stood in their midst.

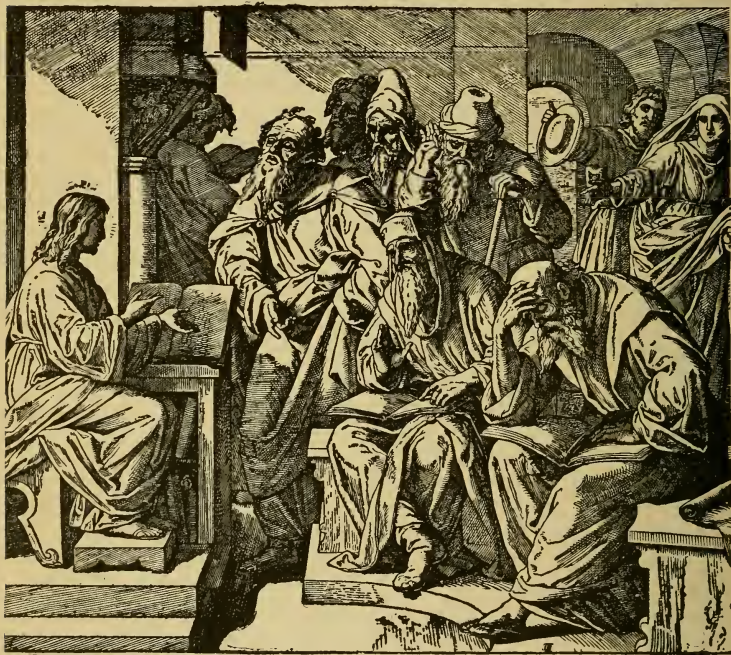
Not a word was said, not a voice was raised save that of the child, when, on the still air, there broke a sob of joy; Ma-ry had found her son. Je-sus turned and saw His moth-er's face, and soon He made an end of His words and was clasped close in her arms. The learn-ed men and the great crowd looked in awe at this strange child, whose words had been so wise, and yet who was so young that He was still in need of a moth-er's care.

Their hearts were too full for them to speak, and so Je-sus passed from them held close by his moth-er's hand.

Then this dear moth-er said to Him: "My son, why did you leave us? Your fath-er and I have looked for you all these days with sad hearts. Why have you done this thing—what does it mean? Then said Je-sus: "Why did you

look for me? Did you not know that it was time for me to do my Fath-er's work?"

Ma-ry and Jo-seph did not know what to say to these



They found Je-sus in the tem-ple talk-ing to the learn-ed men.

strange words; they were not sure what Je-sus meant, and yet Ma-ry must have thought of what the angel had told her ere her son was born. We know that Je-sus meant that the time had come when it was right for Him to do



the work that God, His Father in Heaven, had sent Him to do.

Joseph and Mary made haste now to join their friends who had gone on towards home. Out of the great gates of Jerusalem, and far from the crowds who filled her long streets, back to the quiet home, in the hills of Galilee, went the dear Christ-child, to lead now for eighteen years the life of the folks in that place.

All that the Bible tells us of these years is that He grew both strong and good, and was loved by God and man. It is not hard to see the life that Jesus led till He was thirty years old ; Joseph was a poor man—a carpenter—and lived by the work of his hands, so we cannot doubt that Jesus helped him in the shop and learned the same trade. None knew He was the Christ ; no one dreamed that the new King of the Jews walked and talked with them, ate of their bread, and sat in their homes. In all things the Bible tells us that the life of Jesus was just the same as that of the rest of men, save one great thing—He knew no sin.

So the long years went by, and it may be that in the heart of Mary the words of the angel had grown faint and dim, and that she thought Jesus was the same as His brothers. Then we come to that great day on which God spoke from the sky, and claimed Jesus as His dear and loved son.

## CHAPTER V.

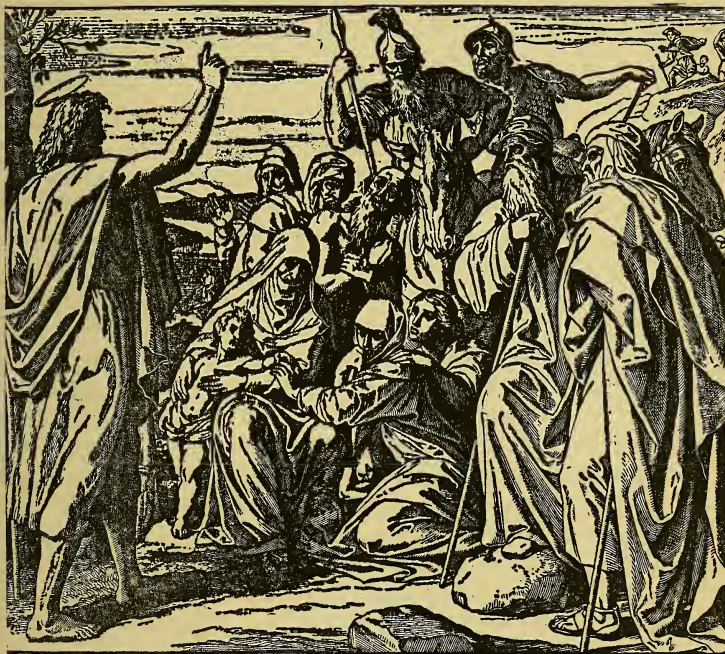
## JESUS—THE SON OF GOD.

THE same great angel, Ga-briel, who had told Ma-ry of the birth of Je-sus, had been sent by God first to a woman named E-lis-a-beth. who was Ma-ry's cousin, and who lived in the town of Ju-da. He had told her that she would have a son, whose name should be called John, and that his work would be to turn the hearts of man from sin and tell them of their Sa-viour and King who was to come. As a boy, John passed his days in the fields and woods ; he lived far from towns and cit-ies, and knew more of the flow-ers and the birds and the sheep that fed on the hill-sides than he did of the folks and their ways. He lived in much the same way as a man ; the years spent by Je-sus in peace at the home in Gal-i-lee, John had passed in the wild woods, and in the cliffs and caves of the great desert of Ju-de-a. He ate poor food, and he wore clothes made of coarse hair ; his mind was full of but one thing—the king who was to come and save the Jews ; and his thoughts were fixed on his great work ; to tell folks of the Christ, and to teach them to make a place for Him in their hearts.

All who grieved for their sins and wished to lead a pure life, he would bap-tize, and so he was called John the Bap-tist. When he left the woods and fields to start his work, he found that the Jews had strange thoughts of their king in their minds ; they all thought he was to come in might and sit on a grand throne and rule the whole world ; but

John told them they must look for their king as a pure, ho-ly man—one who would be as poor as the least of them.

One day John had come to the banks of the riv-er Jor-



John stood on the banks of the riv-er Jor-dan tell-ing the peo-ple they should see their king.

dan ; a crowd of men and wom-en pressed close to him, for they loved to hear his words. He told them that the day was near when they should see their king ; he spoke of the might of God and of the love of Jesus ; and, lo, as the

words were on his lips, he saw a man come toward him through the great crowd. As the eyes of the two men met, John at once knew his Lord; he fell low on the ground at



Je-sus stepped down in-to the stream and John bap-tized Him.

His feet, and in a loud voice that all might hear, he cried: "Thou art He!"

While the crowd looked on in awe the two men drew a-side and Je-sus stepped down in-to the stream that John



might bap-tize Him. John of course did not wish to do this, for he did not think that he was fit to touch the strings that tied his dear Lord's shoes ; but Je-sus wished to show men what it was right that they should do ; and so would have John bap-tize Him, though there was no need of it, as he had no sin.

John did the will of Je-sus ; and when they came out of the stream, and stood once more on the Jor-dan's banks, a bright light which took the shape of a dove shone in the sky. As Je-sus looked with the rest at this strange sight, the shape seemed to float down and rest like a snow-white dove on His head ; then, from the sky was heard a voice—a voice so clear and strong that all the men and wom-en heard the words that fell so sweet on the ear of Je-sus : "This is my be-lov-ed Son, in whom I am well pleased." What joy, and yet what awe, must have filled the heart of Je-sus. For thir-ty years, He had but done the work of the day as it came to Him to do in Gal-i-lee ; and now, God tells Him that He is pleased with Him and calls Him His loved Son. Je-sus could not go back home, and talk of this great thing ; He must go where he would see no one, and where He could think of what God now wished Him to do. So He left the crowd that pressed near to Him, and passed from the sight of men in-to the wild wastes of sand and rock that formed the des-ert of Ju-de-a.

## CHAPTER VI.

## JE-SUS IN THE DES-ERT; AND IN THE WORLD.

THE des-ert of Ju-de-a was a grim, drear place, where great rocks and bare hills rose from a dry waste of sand; no plants nor grass grew here, save such as had no need of wa-ter, for it was rare that rain fell. Wild beasts prowled a-mong the caves and rocks, and big dark birds, too, made their homes here; no sign of man met the eye of Je-sus as He came a-lone to the wild place.

Je-sus knew that when He left the des-ert to go in the world once more He could not lead the life of peace and quiet that had been His in Gal-i-lee. He must take up the work He had dropped long years a-go, when as a child He taught His Fath-er's will in the tem-ple at Je-ru-sa-lem; how God meant Him to do this, was what He had come to the des-ert to find out. He stayed here for-ty days and nights, and we read in the Bi-ble that Sat-an came here to tempt Him, and to try to make Him sin, as Ad-am and Eve had; but sin had no place in the pure heart of Je-sus and He drove Sat-an from Him with the words:—"Get thee gone, Sat-an; you shall not tempt the Lord your God."

Sat-an had tried hard to force Je-sus to sin, and our Lord was weak and worn when the e-vil one left Him. He was in need, too, of both food and drink; so God sent a host of an-gels to care for Him, and give Him back His health and strength, so that He could leave the des-ert strong and well, to take up His work.

John the Bap-tist and some of his friends watched for Je-sus on the banks of the Jor-dan, where he had left them, and when at the end of forty days Je-sus came to them,



“ Je-sus said un-to Sat-an : ‘ Get thee gone ; you shall not tempt the Lord your God.’ ”

John cried out : “ See, here is the Lamb of God, on Him are laid the sins of the world.” Then two men, whose names were John and An-drew, left John the Bap-tist, and went with Je-sus back to His home in Gal-i-lee.

He was soon to have more friends, for An-drew brought his broth-er Pe-ter to Him, and then two friends of theirs, Phil-ip and Na-than-a-el, joined the band. As time went on



“ As Je-sus came to them, John cried out : ‘ See the Lamb of God, on Him are laid the sins of the world.’ ”

more men, moved by the words and acts of Je-sus, came to Him, till at last He had twelve friends who were ev-er near Him or with Him ; these men were called His dis-ci-ples.

Now, you might think that the first act of Je-sus as the



Son of God and the King of the Jews would be some great thing done for the good of the whole race of the Jews ; but this was not the will of God. It was a small thing that He did—just a kind act to help a young bride at her mar-



Je-sus turn-ing the wa-ter in-to wine at the mar-riage feast in Ca-na.

riage feast. The feast was held in the town of Ca-na ; to it had come Je-sus and some of His new friends. Ma-ry the moth-er was there too, and seems to have had charge of the feast, for as the hour grew late and more guests still came,

she came to Je-sus and told Him that all the wine was gone. Now this meant a great deal, for the bride and her folks would feel much shame if they could not give wine to all who came to the feast. We do not know just how great a hope was in Mary's heart when she came to her Son, she must have thought He could help her, for she told those who served to do just as He bade them. It would be sweet to think that Ma-ry knew how great the pow-er was that laid in her Son, though as yet He had not shown it.

Je-sus told the ser-vants to fill six great stone jars full of wa-ter, and when they had filled them to the brim, to take some to the chief man at the feast. When this man drank of it, he said that it was the best wine that had yet been served ; then all who had seen the act of Je-sus knew that He was more than man, for no mere man could have done this thing. This was the first time that Je-sus had tried His pow-er since God had called Him His Son, but from now on He did such great and strange things that His fame spread through the land.

The next act of Je-sus was such a brave thing to do that it shows us at once that He was a man who knew no fear and who would do God's work at the risk of His own life. It was the time of the great Feast of the Pass-o-ver, and Je-sus had come up to Je-ru-sa-lem to keep the feast. As He came in to one of the courts of the Tem-ple, He heard a great noise of loud, rough talk, and saw that the court was filled with those who bought and sold the lambs and doves which the priests killed on the al-tars.

We have known Je-sus till now as a meek man and as a kind, good son, but we now see that He could feel great scorn for bad acts. He caught up some fine cord and made it in-to a thick lash ; with this He drove from the ho-ly place

all the bad men and told them that His Father's house was a place of prayer and that they had made it a den of thieves.



Je-sus driv-ing the mon-ey chang-ers and those that sold lambs and doves from the Tem-ple.

Je-sus was but one man in this great crowd and yet not a hand was raised and no harm was done to Him. All fled from His wrath, they did not e-ven stop to pick up the gold and sil-ver coin that rolled on the floor at their

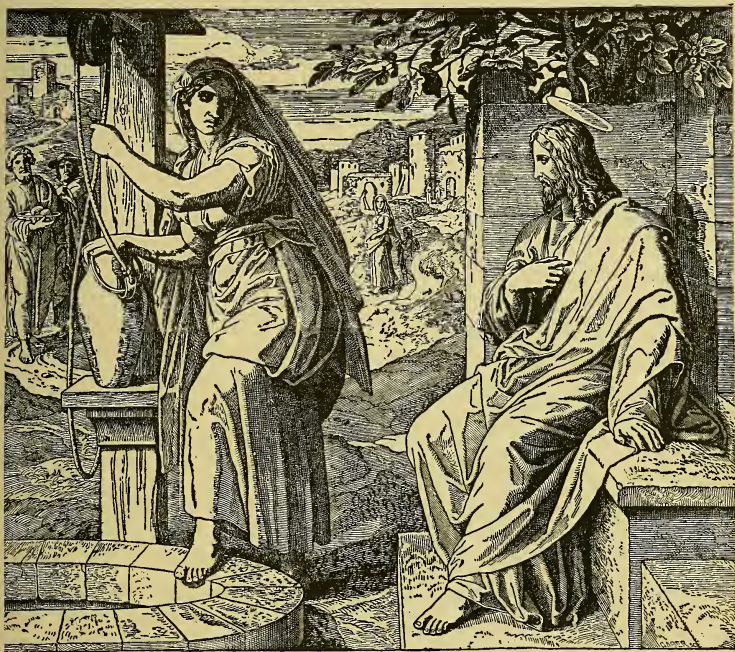


feet. So Je-sus made pure the great Tem-ple, but by this act He made foes of the priests in charge, for they had made much mon-ey from those who had bought and sold in the Tem-ple.

On the road from Je-ru-sa-lem to Gal-i-lee lay the land of Sa-ma-ri-a. Those who lived here did not like the Jews, and the Jews in turn looked down on the folks of Sa-ma-ri-a. At the close of one long hot day Je-sus came to the town of Sy-char in Sa-ma-ri-a. He was worn and tired, and His friends left him there to rest by the side of a deep cool well, while they went on to the town to seek food and a place in which to spend the night. As Je-sus sat here deep in thought, a wom-an of Sa-ma-ri-a came to the well to draw wa-ter. She did not think that this grave-faced Jew would speak to a wom-an of Sa-ma-ri-a, but Je-sus turned His kind face toward her and asked for a drink of wa-ter. The wom-an said to Him: "How is it that you, a Jew, ask drink of me, a wom-an of Sa-ma-ri-a?" Je-sus told her that if she but knew who He was she would ask a great thing of Him and that He would give it. Then the two talked for a long while. Je-sus, who knew all hearts, spoke to her of her past life, which had been full of sins, and told her that those who would see God must love Him and lead pure lives.

The wom-an had heard of the King of the Jews who was to come to earth, and she said that she knew when the Mes-si-ah (the Jew's name for Christ) came to earth He would teach all the truth. Then Je-sus told her that He was the Mes-si-ah. When the wom-an heard this she left in great haste to spread the news, for her heart told her it was the truth. To all whom she saw she cried: "Come, there is a man who has told me all my past life;—is He not the Christ?"

Soon a great crowd poured forth from Sy-char to see this strange man, and the truth so showed in Je-sus' face and His words that trust in Him filled all hearts. Some of the



“ As Je-sus sat by the side of the well to rest, a wom-an of Sa-ma-ri-a come to draw water.”

folks begged Him to stay there with them, and as Je-sus saw that He could do God's work here he stayed on for two days. When He left the town a great ma-ny be-lieved on Him, and said to the wom-an who had first met him : “ You



spoke but the truth ; now that we have seen Him and heard Him speak, we know that He is Christ, the Saviour of the world."

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## CHAPTER VII.

### JE-SUS AT HOME.

A GREAT grief came to Je-sus on His way home to Gal-i-lee ; John the Baptist had dared to tell a bad king of his sins, and for this had been put in chains and cast in pris-on.

Je-sus put His own grief from Him, though, and soothed those who came to Him with sad hearts. On His trip through Gal-i-lee, He came to Ca-na, where He had turned the wa-ter to wine. Here, He was met by a rich and great man, who lived in Ca-per-na-um. This man's child lay at the point of death, and he begged Je-sus to go home with him and save his child's life.

The great, warm heart of Je-sus throbbed with pit-y for the fath-er's grief, and He did not wait to go home with him, but soothed him at once as He said : " Go your way, your son is cured." What trust Je-sus had in God, to dare to say those words, which meant so much. The fath-er went in haste to his home ; and while he was yet some ways off, some of his men met him with the glad news that his son was well. When he heard the time at which the boy was cured, he found it was at just the hour that Je-sus had said he would be well. We can think how fast the news of this kind act of Je-sus would spread ; we know how glad we

would be to have some one heal our sick with just a word ; so we can see just how folks of that day would bring the sick and the weak to Jesus, that He might give them back their health and strength.

But, though the fame of Je-sus spread far and near in the land, and many hearts turned to Him in love and trust, He was met in His own home and in the town of Naz-a-reth, not with love, but with fierce hate.

This seems like a strange thing, does it not ? See how it came to be :—On the first Sab-bath (Sun-day) that He spent in Naz-a-reth, He went, with the rest, to church ; the folks had heard of His fame, so He was asked to read and to preach to them. Je-sus read from what we know as the Old Tes-ta-ment, and He chose a part in which one of the wise men of the Jews had said, that one day a Sa-viour should come to the Jews, who would heal the sick, and raise the dead ; who would give sight to the blind, and make deaf ears to hear ; who would bring joy to the whole world. Then Je-sus closed the book and talked to them. His first words were a shock to those who had known and loved Him as a child, who had seen Him in Jo-seph's shop at work, and who had known Him for thir-ty years as the car-pen-ter's son ; for He told them that He was the Son of God, who had come to do all the great things of which they had just heard from their wise men of old.

Rage and scorn filled the hearts of those who heard Him speak ; to think that He, the son of Jo-seph and Ma-ry, should dare say He was the Son of God ! They rose in their hot wrath and drove Him from the church and out of the town to the edge of a steep cliff ; then they tried to cast Him down this hill, and so kill him. But Jesus knew that it was not yet time for Him to die ; and so, while they pressed

close to him with loud cries of rage, and glared at him with wild, fierce eyes of hate, He stepped through them and passed from their sight.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

### JE-SUS HEALS THE SICK.

JE-SUS left Naz-a-reth, for He knew He could not now make His home there, and He at once looked for a new place in which to live. He chose Ca-per-na-um, and here his moth-er and broth-ers came too; but his sis-ter stayed with their hus-bands in Naz-a-reth.

Je-sus was well known now as one who taught great truths; and one day, as He stood on the shore of a lake in Gali-lee and watched some men fish from their boats, a great crowd pressed close to Him, to hear the Word of God. Two boats were drawn up on the shore; Je-sus stepped in-to one of them, owned by a man named Pe-ter, and asked that he might be pushed out a ways on the wa-ter, so that all could see Him and hear His words. He sat in the small boat, as it lay at rest on the blue waves, and spoke kind words to the great throng on shore.

When He had done, it seems as if he wished to thank Pe-ter in some way for the use of his boat, for he said to him and his broth-er An-drew: "Go out in-to the deep wa-ter, and cast out your net for a haul (draught) of fish." These men had worked all night and had caught no fish; so Pe-ter told Je-sus this, but said that, at His word, they would try once more. Then they let down the net, and so great was the load of fish that they caught that the net

broke with its own weight. Then James and John, who were near at hand, came in their boat to help, and they filled both boats with the fish. When Pe-ter saw this, he fell down on the sand at the feet of Je-sus, and said he would be His friend, and stay with Him all his life, that He might help Him in His work ; the rest of the men, too, all gave up their own work, and left their homes to go with Je-sus, and lead the same life that He did.

One bright Sun-day morn, soon after this, as Je-sus preached in a church at Ca-per-na-um, there crept in a poor crazed man—one whose brain is not as clear and bright as yours is, but wild and strange. As this poor soul looked in the pure face of our Lord, light seemed to break on his mind, and he cried out in a loud voice : “ I know Thee, who Thou art ; Thou art Je-sus, the Holy One of God.” Je-sus told the man to be still, and His words at once calmed the crazed, wild brain, and gave the man back his right mind.

When Je-sus had left the church, Pe-ter came to Him and said that his wife’s moth-er was sick ; Je-sus went at once to Pe-ter’s home, and raised the sick woman from her bed, and gave her back her health. Two such works in one day, in one small town, made much talk ; rich and poor heard of this man, who could, at a word, give help to the sick and clear a weak, crazed brain. Ere the night fell, crowds of sick folks were brought to Je-sus that He might cure them ; and, on them all, Je-sus just laid His hands, and they were made well.

It was a sad sight on which Je-sus looked through all the long day, and He was worn and faint when He could at last go home for a few hours’ rest. The next morn, while yet the sun was low in the east, Je-sus rose and stole off to the still shores of the lake, that He might talk to His

Father, where no eye could see Him and no ear hear His words. His rest was not to be long ; soon Pe-ter ran to Him and cried : "Come, all men seek thee." But Je-sus said that His work now lay somewhere else ; He had done much in Ca-per-na-um, and must now do God's work in other pla-ces.

So He left the crowds that still would bring their sick to Him, and went out in the great world to speak the word of God.

Near one of the big towns there came to Him, as He walked a-lone, a man sick with a foul plague ; this man was a leper, and none would touch him or come near him lest they too might take the plague.

He crept up to Je-sus and knelt at His feet, while he moaned out his prayer : "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." Jesus did not make him ask twice, but said at once : "I will, be thou clean." At His words the man's flesh was healed ; strength came back to his limbs, and he leaped and ran in his joy, and told what Je-sus had done to all who came in his way.

So Je-sus passed on through the towns of the land, and in each place He did kind deeds and spoke such words of truth and love that the hearts of men turned to-ward Him. There was a great class, though, who did not love Him, but who feared His pow-er and would like to put Him out of the way just as Her-od wished to do when He was a ba-by. These were the men who ruled the Jews and did not wish folks to see that Je-sus was the new King of the Jews ; there were, as well, ma-n-y of the Jews who did not see the truth of Christ's words, and thought, as the folks in His own town did, that He had no right to claim to be the Son of God.



When He came back to Ca-per-na-um, though, all wished to hear Him speak, and to look once more on the face they loved so well. He went to the home of Pe-ter, which was a



“Some folks who had brought a sick man on his couch, made a hole in the roof of the house and let him down at the feet of Je-sus.”

large house and would hold a big crowd ; here he talked to the throngs that pressed in. There was not room for all who would hear Him ; and so, some folks who had brought a sick man there on his couch, went on the roof, and through

a hole which they made let down the sick man at the feet of Je-sus. As this sad sight met the eyes of Christ, His great heart was so touched that He would not go on with His talk till He had cured the man. He first told him that He was free from all his sin, and then said : " Rise, take up thy bed, and go to thy house." Faith filled the man's heart, and though he had been weak and sick for a long time, he rose at the word of Je-sus ; strength came to his limbs, and he did as Je-sus told him. So great was this cure that some of the priests of the Jews who saw it gave praise to God, and said : " We have seen strange things this day."

We will speak just here of one more great cure that Je-sus made ; this time it was near Je-ru-sa-lem, and a big crowd saw it. Near one of the gates of Je-ru-sa-lem was a pool of wa-ter called the Pool of Be-thes-da ; this name means the House of Mer-cy. All who were sick or weak came here with the thought that if at just the right time they bathed in the wa-ter they would be cured. The wa-ter in the pool was stirred at times, and folks thought that an an-gel from God did it ; this was the time to step in the pool ; those who could not get in till the wa-ter was smooth would get no help.

Je-sus stood here one Sun-day, and with a sad heart watched the scene. In all the crowd who pushed and strove to reach the wa-ter, or were borne in by friends, He saw one sick man lay still on his bed, with none to help him. Je-sus went at once to his side and said : " Do you wish to be made well ?" The man raised his eyes to the kind face of Je-sus, and said : " I have none to put me in the wa-ter ; while I try to reach the pool some one steps in and I am too late." What strange thoughts must have filled this man's heart when the words of Je-sus showed him that he

need not wait to bathe in the pool. "Rise," said our Lord, "take up thy bed and walk." Faith seems to have come in men's minds at the words of Jesus, for this man had no doubt of his power to do as he was told; he rose at once, took up his bed, and left the crowd of sick folks a well, strong man.

Now there was a class of Jews called Phar-i-sees, who had a strict law that on the Sab-bath none should raise a hand to work; no Phar-i-see would dare to lift so much as a rug from the floor, or to help a sick man in his bed; to cure the sick on the Sab-bath was a crime in the eyes of the Phar-i-sees. Now, both Je-sus and this sick man broke this law; when the Jews saw the man bear his bed they were shocked and said: "It is a sin to car-ry thy bed on the Sab-bath." When he told them of the man who had cured him and bade him bear his bed to his home, their rage grew strong and fierce, and they looked for Je-sus to kill Him. They had not far to look, for Je-sus had gone at once to the Tem-ple to tell of the truth of God's word. When the mob of fierce men told Je-sus how wrong they thought his act, He turned on them and said that they had no right to judge the son of God; at these brave words the men were still more an-gry, and they watched Him while He stayed in Je-ru-sa-lem to see if He dared yet a-gain break their laws.

Je-sus knew no fear, as we have seen, and so once as He and his dis-ci-ples walked through a corn-field on the Sab-bath, He told them to pick the corn and eat it, for they were in need of food. When He was a-gain told that this was a sin, He said that He was the Lord of the Sab-bath, and that the Sab-bath was made for man's good; man was not made for the Sab-bath. Once more at this time does

Je-sus dare, for the sake of a sick man, to act in just the way that He knew would bring wrath on Him.

As He preached one day in a church he saw a man whose right hand was so drawn and bent with pain that he could not use it. The Phar-i-sees watched Je-sus to see what He would do, and He, who read their thoughts, told the man to come out where all could see him. Then He asked the Phar-i-sees if it was right to do good or to do wrong on the Sab-bath—to save life or to kill? He then told the man to stretch forth his right hand, and it grew at His word as strong and straight as the left one. The rage of the Phar-i-sees now grew so fierce that Je-sus saw that they would kill Him if he stayed in Je-ru-sa-lem ; so, not that He feared death, but that He might live till His work was done, He left the ho-ly city and went back to Gal-i-lee.

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## CHAPTER IX.

### JE-SUS SPEAKS FROM THE HILL-SIDE.

WHEN Je-sus came back to Gal-i-lee crowds thronged to His side, and He could at this time have been at the head of a great host of men ; but this was not the will of God. Je-sus found so much work to do that He felt the need of help in it, and so he called to His side twelve men whom He felt that he could trust. We shall see that one of these men turned from Christ as time went on, but the rest stayed with Him through His life, and were known as the twelve dis-ci-ples. Here are the names of them all :—

Si-mon Pe-ter,  
An-drew,  
James,

Mat-thew,  
Thom-as,  
James (2d),



John,  
Phil-ip,  
Na-than-a-el,

Thad-de-us,  
Si-mon (2d),  
Ju-das Is-car-i-ot.



Je-sus and His twelve dis-ci-ples.

When Je-sus had called these men to Him, He told them how He wished them to live. They must take no thought of gold, nor of what they should eat or drink, or how they should be clothed; they must trust all this to those to whom they preached. They must heal the sick, give sight to the



blind, make the deaf hear and the lame walk. When they came to a town or house they must say : " Peace be in this place ; " but if folks would not hear their words, then they must do no good works there, but go on to the next place. He told them that if they went with Him their lives would be hard, for men would hate them and try to do them harm ; then to cheer them, He said that God, who cared for the least of the birds (spar-rows) would care far more for them. When Jesus had said these words to the dis-ci-ples, He went up on a high hill to pray and to learn the will of His Fath-er. He stayed here all night, and when He came down He found a great crowd on the plain who longed to hear His words.

In the still, dark night, on the lone hill-top, God had told Jesus how He wished men to live. God's will is just the same now ; so let us see what Jesus now told the great crowd in His Ser-mon on the Mount : " Bless-ed are the meek, and those who grieve for their sins," said Je-sus, " for they shall come in-to heav-en. Bless-ed are those that mourn, for they shall be soothed. Bless-ed are those who long to be good, for God will give them help. Bless-ed are those who are kind to others, for God will be kind to them. Bless-ed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Bless-ed are those who try to keep peace, for God will call them His sons. Bless-ed are those who, when they try to be good, are hurt, for they shall come in-to heav-en. Bless-ed are those who are kind to their foes as well as to their friends." Then Je-sus told them that they must bless those who cursed them ; do good to those who ha-ted them, and pray for those who did wrong to them. He said, too, that in the old time it was said that folks should not kill, but that He said folks should not e-ven get in a rage. He told

them that they must not pray in the streets, as the Pharisees did, that men might see them, but that they must pray in their homes ; and then He gave them the "Lord's Prayer," to show them how they should pray.



Je-sus de-liv-er-ing His Ser-mon on the Mount.

Je-sus spoke a long while of all the things that men must do to lead good lives, and then He said that those who heard His words were like two men who each built a house. One man built on the sands, by the sea, and when the storm

came the house fell, and was swept out of sight by the waves. The other man built his house on a rock, and, though the winds blew hard and the waves dashed high, the house stood firm on the rock.

Those who heard the words of Jesus, but did not do them, were, so He said, like the man who built on the sand, they would all be lost; but those who did as he told them were like the man who built on a rock, for they would stand firm on the rock of God's word, and come at last safe to His home on high.

When Jesus was through with His long talk, in which He had told the people such strange things, He went in search of the rest of which he stood in sore need. Not long did the dear Lord give to His own needs, though, for on the next day He left Ca-per-na-um and went on one of those long trips so full of good deeds.

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## CHAPTER X.

### JE-SUS GIVES LIFE TO THE DEAD.

WE have seen Je-sus give health to the sick, and make a crazed, weak brain clear and strong. We have seen Him heal a lep-er, and put strength in a hand so bent and weak from pain that it could not be used, but now we are to see Him do a deed so great that awe and fear filled the minds of all who knew of it.

Just as the night drew on, Je-sus and His dis-ci-ples came near a small town in Gal-i-lee by the name of Nain (the De-light-ful). Here they saw a sad sight: out from the gates of the town came a long line of folks, who mourned for the death of a young man whose corpse they now bore

to the grave. In those far-off days, in the East, there was a law that all who met such a band as this should join in the grief, and go to the grave with the rest. So Je-sus and His dis-ci-ples turned their steps, and joined the sad group.

Close to the corpse of the young man walked a wom-an, whose grief was so great that it was not hard to see that she was his moth-er. Je-sus stepped through the crowd, and came close to this sad wom-an; He spoke to her in a low, sweet voice, and said: "Weep not." Then he laid His hands on the bier, and those who bore it stood still. How still the crowd must have grown; they had all heard of the great works of Je-sus, and they now stood in wait to see what He would do. In the midst of the great hush, the voice of Je-sus rose strong and clear. He spoke to the dead, and His words were: "Young man, I say to you—A-rise!" These were strange words; but no time was there for men to doubt the pow-er of Je-sus; at the sound of His voice the dead man sat up, and spoke. Then Je-sus gave him to his moth-er, and went on His way.

Fear fell on all hearts, and far and fast spread the news of this great act. It reached the great city of Je-ru-sa-lem, and even crept in-to the pris-on cell where all these long months John the Bap-tist had been kept at the word of a cru-el king. John knew that death was the on-ly means by which he should leave his cold, dark cell, and he longed to be sure that the Christ of whom he had told men was on earth. So he sent some men whom he could trust to ask Je-sus if He, who had raised this man from the dead, was in truth the Mes-si-ah, or if they must still look for some-one else. Not one com-plaint did this brave, good John the Bap-tist make for his own sad state; not one cry to Je-sus for help; just, "Are you the Christ?"



And what word did Je-sus send back? "Tell John," said He to the men, "what you have seen and heard: the blind are made to see, the lame to walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up, and the Word of



Je-sus re-stor-ing the wid-ow's son to life at Nain.

God is preached to the poor." Can you doubt that when John the Bap-tist heard of these great works, he was sure that Je-sus was the Son of God?

When these men were gone, Je-sus turned to the great



mass of folks that by this time were ev-er near Him, and praised John the Bap-tist to them. He said that he was the one of whom their own wise men of old had said that he should come and make a way for the Son of God. There is no one in this world so great as John the Bap-tist, said our dear Lord. Some in the crowd had been bapt-ized by John, and felt that the words of Je-sus were true, but the Phar-i-sees would not see the truth.

It was not just the poor, or those whose birth was low, that wished to be with Je-sus. He was, just at this time, asked by a rich Phar-i-see, whose name was Si-mon, to dine at his home. Je-sus wished all men to know Him, and so He went to this great house, just as He would have gone to the house of a poor man.

In those days, many small things were done to a guest as he came in a house ; the host would greet him with a kiss, oil would be poured on his head, and wa-ter giv-en him that he might bathe his feet. None of these things did Si-mon do for Je-sus ; he may have thought that Christ did not know what was the law, and so he just gave Him a seat at the feast. Folks did not, at that time, sit on chairs when they ate, as we do, but they half lay on a long couch drawn up to the ta-ble. As Je-sus sat at the feast and talked in His wise way to the great and rich men round Him, He gave no sign that He knew how rude Si-mon had been to Him.

There was in the city at this time a wom-an who had lived a life of great sin ; she had heard Je-sus speak, and grief filled her heart at her bad life, and she longed to talk to Him. So when she heard that He was in Si-mon's house, she crept into the great hall, then, with no word or thought for the host, or the rest of his guests, she fell low on the

floor at the feet of Je-sus. Her tears fell so fast that they wet the tired feet of her Lord, and she wiped them dry with her long, dark hair, and pressed on them kiss after kiss. On a gold chain that she wore round her neck was a box of rare oint-ment ; this she poured on Je-sus' feet, that it might cool and rest them. As Si-mon watched all this strange sight, he thought in his heart—If Je-sus were what he claims to be, He would know how bad this wom-an is, and would turn from her.

Je-sus read his thoughts, and said to him : “ Si-mon, I wish to speak to you. Once two men owed the same man a debt ; one owed a small sum, one a large sum. The man to whom they were in debt told them both they need not pay. Which do you think would love him the most ? ” Si-mon, of course, said the man who owed the most. Je-sus said he was right, and then he turned to the wom-an, who still knelt at his feet. Up to now, He had paid no heed to her ; but now He told Si-mon to look at her, and then He said to him : “ When I came in your house, you sent no one to bathe my feet, but this wom-an has washed my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair ; you gave me no kiss, such as a host should, but she does not cease to press kiss up-on kiss on my feet ; you brought no oil to pour on my head, but she pours a rare balm on my head. For all this, which love told her to do, I will wipe out her sins. She has sinned much, but loved much, and she will feel that she owes much to the one who wipes out her great debt.” Then he turned His kind eyes full of love on the wom-an and said : “ Your faith has saved you ; go in peace.”

Those who sat at the feast with Him were great men, wise in the law of their land, and they were shocked and

full of wrath that Je-sus should dare say He would blot out sin as if He were God, for they did not own Christ as the Son of God.

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## CHAPTER XI.

### JESUS SPEAKS GREAT TRUTHS IN SHORT STORIES.

A PAR-A-BLE is a great truth told in the form of a short sto-ry. Je-sus of-ten used this form of speech. In some of these par-a-bles the truth is so plain that e-ven a small child can see it. Let us read just here three par-a-bles, which Je-sus told at this time.

One day, as He walked by the sea-shore, such crowds came to hear Him that, as He of-ten did, He taught from a boat pushed out a short ways from the shore. At this time He told them the Par-a-ble of the Sow-er. A man went out to sow some seeds. As he flung them from his hands some fell by the way-side, where the birds found and ate them. Some fell on the rocks, and as there was not much earth there, their roots did not grow deep and strong ; the fine green stalks sprang up at once, but when the hot sun shone down on them they dried up and soon died, for they had no strong roots. Some fell where the thorns and weeds grew high and close, and of course they were so choked that they could bear no fruit. Some of the seeds, though, fell on rich earth, where their roots reached down and grew so strong that they helped the ti-ny green stalk, when it pushed its head through the brown earth, to grow in-to a big, fine plant, that bore much fruit. Je-sus then told His dis-ci-ples that the words he spoke were like these

seeds. Those that fell by the way and were picked up by the birds were those that fell in hearts which cared so little for them that Sat-an came and took them out. The seeds which fell on the rocks were those words that came to folks who at first heard with joy, but soon put the pure words from them and went back to a life of sin. The seeds which fell in the thorns and weeds were the words which fell in those hearts so full of thoughts of self and of care for the things of this world that there was no place for the Word of God.

Je-sus told at this time a par-a-ble which showed how the love of God would grow in the heart if it had just the least start. A seed of mus-tard is the least of all seeds, and yet it grows to be a tree so large that birds make their nests in its boughs. So Je-sus told them that just as a grain of mus-tard would, if cared for, take root and grow strong and big,—so the word of God, if it once came in a man's heart, and was watched and cared for, would grow so big that it would fill the man's whole life with peace and joy.

The Par-a-ble of a Pearl of great price is so sweet that you will like to hear it. Je-sus told it, to show how we should prize the Word of God. There was a man who bought and sold rare gems. One day he met a man who had such a fine, large pearl that this man wished for it with his whole heart.

He had much gold, all of which he would be glad to give to own this one fair pearl, but the man who owned it wished for more than this and put the pearl back in his box. Then the first man went back to his home and sold all that he had that he might raise the large sum that would buy this pearl. So at last he got the pearl, but it was at the cost of all else that he owned in the world. Je-sus is the Pearl of great price. For His dear sake, and



to have Him in our hearts, we should be glad to give up much that we care for—to give up all that we love, if the need comes.



“Fear filled the dis-ci-ples’ hearts, and they roused Je-sus from His sleep, and begged Him to save them.”

Men so loved Jesus at this time that one man who was strange to Him came to Him and said: “Lord, I wish to go with you and make my home with you.” The words of Jesus to him sound sad to us who love our homes and find



joy in them, for He said that though the beasts of the fields had holes and the birds of the air nests in which to live, the Son of Man had not where to lay His head.

Je-sus spoke more para-bles at this time, and took no rest through all the long day, so when the night came, He went with His dis-ci-ples on a boat, and put out to sea, where He could be free from the crowds, and find some rest.

Worn out with the long, hard day, He lay down in the back of the boat, and was soon deep in sleep. While He slept a fierce storm rose; the winds blew in great gusts, and the waves dashed so high that the boat was tossed like a toy from side to side. Fear filled the dis-ci-ples' hearts, and they roused Je-sus from His sleep, and begged Him to save them.

When Je-sus had gone to sleep the sea was still and calm and stars shone in the clear night sky; now He was roused in the midst of a storm so fierce, that these men, who had known the sea all their lives, were in great fear. But Je-sus knew no fear; He felt that He was the Lord of the sea and of the winds, and so He rose and calmed the winds and the waves with the quiet words: "Peace, be still." The great waves curled their crests of foam no more; the roar of the winds sank to a soft moan, and then, as the boat rode on the still sea, Je-sus turned to His dis-ci-ples and said: "Why do you fear? Have you no faith in me?"

Awe and fright filled the hearts of these men such as they had not known since they had gone with Je-sus, and they said: "What kind of a man can this be at whose words the winds and the sea are stilled?"

The men now steered their boat to the shore and were soon safe on the land. In this place, too, Je-sus did great works, and men learned day by day to love Him more and more.

## CHAPTER XII.

JE-SUS BRINGS TO LIFE THE DEAD DAUGH-TER OF JA-I-RUS—  
JE-SUS FEEDS FIVE THOU-SAND FROM A FEW LOAVES AND  
SOME SMALL FISH.

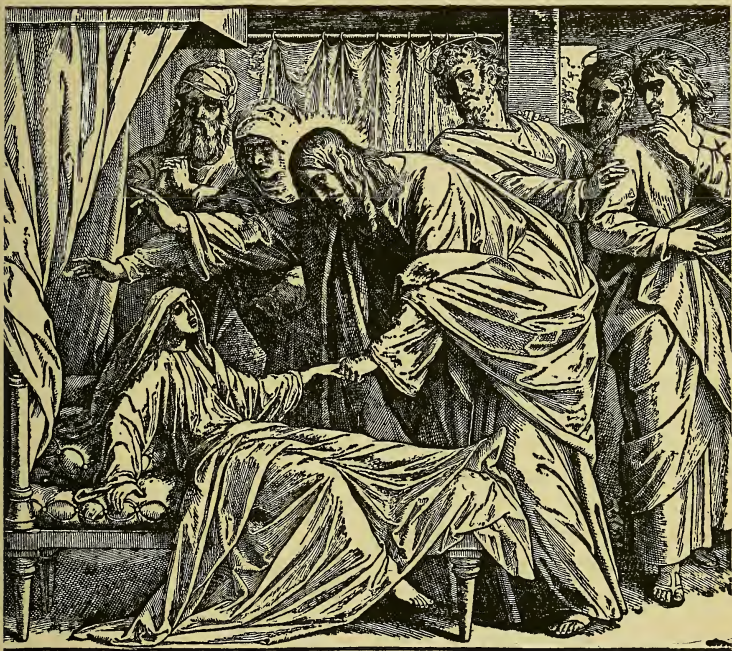
AFTER a long, hard trip by land and sea Je-sus came once more to His own land; here He was met by a Jew named Ja-i-rus, who held a high place in the church of the Jews, and was known to be both rich and great. A grief so great had come to this man's house that he did not care for all his wealth and high place, but fell like a mere slave at the feet of Je-sus and begged for His help. This man's daughter, a young girl, not quite twelve years old, lay near to death; all the great doctors had said that she must die, and in the heart of Ja-i-rus there was now but one hope; this Je-sus of whom he had heard such great things. At the prayer of Ja-i-rus, Christ's heart of love was so touched that He turned at once and went with him. The crowd that had met Je-sus went too, and as the two men walked on side by side more folks joined them.

In the heart of the great throng was a wom-an who had been sick for twelve years. She had spent all her mon-ey to try and be cured, but all was in vain, and she had but grown worse. Now a thought, a hope, sprang up in her heart; Je-sus—can He not cure her? If she could but touch the hem of His robe, she felt that she might be cured. So she crept through the vast throng and laid her weak hand on the fringe that hung from the edge of His robe,

and, lo !—strength came to her—her heart leaped with joy, and she turned from the Christ a well, strong wom-an. She thought that none knew of her deed—a touch so soft as hers could not be felt e-ven by Je-sus as the great throng surged and pushed close to His feet. But she did not know the dear Christ's power. He turned at once and asked who had touched Him. Pe-ter said : “How can you ask when so great a crowd is on all sides?” But Je-sus stopped, and His glance swept the crowd till it fell on the wom-an's face ; the love in His glance drew her to His feet, and there she knelt and told Him of her act. Kind were the words of our Lord. “My child,” said He, “have no fear ; thy faith hath made thee whole—go in peace !”

It took but a lit-tle time to heal this wom-an, but the brief pause was all too long ; for, while Je-sus yet spoke to the wom-an, news came to Ja-i-rus that it was too late to help his daugh-ter—the lit-tle maid was dead. Grief now wrung the fath-er's heart, but Je-sus soothed him. “Fear not,” said He, “Have but faith and your daugh-ter shall live.” So on they went to the home of Ja-i-rus ; when they reached there Je-sus waved back all the great crowd ; He would let none but Pe-ter, James and John go in with Him. Sobs and cries of grief filled the great house, but Je-sus said in a grave voice : “Why do you weep ? The maid is not dead ; she but sleeps.” At these strange words some laughed in scorn, for they knew the child was cold and still in the sleep of death. Je-sus said no more, but passed into the room where the dead girl lay ; with Him went the fath-er and moth-er and His three dis-ci-ples. He looked on the cold, still face of the lit-tle child ; then His dear hands, warm with life, were laid on her dead ones, and He told her to rise from her bed. There was no pause, no

time for the father and mother to doubt His power, for, as He spoke, the maid rose up and walked. Jesus did not act as if He had done a great deed ; He told them to give the child food and then went out of the house.



Je-sus re-stores Ja-i-rus' daugh-ter to life.

As Je-sus stepped from Ja-i-rus' home He was met by two blind men who cried out : " Help us, oh, thou son of Da-vid ! " These men walked by the side of Je-sus till He came to His own home, and did not stop their sad cry for help.



Then Jesus asked them if they were sure that He could make them see; when they said that they were, Jesus touched their eyes and said : " If ye have faith ye shall see."



Je-sus and the two blind men.

Sight came at once to the blind eyes ; so we know that these men had much faith in their hearts.

Just at this time, too, a man who could not speak was brought to Je-sus ; at the word of Christ this man's voice came back to him, and he praised Him who had done this

great thing to him ; so the fame of Je-sus spread far and wide in the land. The Phar-i-sees did not like to hear Je-sus praised, and the priests in the great Tem-ple, and all those who ruled the land, from Her-od, the king, down, had hate in their hearts for Je-sus, and feared that the Jews might try to place Him on the throne.

Just at the time when Je-sus was most loved by men a great grief came to Him in the death of John the Bap-tist. All the long months this man who so loved the free, fresh air, and had lived all his life on the wide plains, and in the wild woods, had been shut up in a small, dark pris-on cell. His death came in this way :

Her-od had made his wife a wo-man named Her-o-di-as ; she had been the wife of a man named Phil-ip, and John had dared say that she did a wrong thing when she left Phil-ip and went with Her-od ; Her-o-di-as had great hate for John the Bap-tist for these brave words. On his birth-day Her-od gave a grand feast, at which Sa-lo-me, the daugh-ter of Her-o-di-as, danced ; Her-od was so pleased with her grace that he told her she could ask what she would from him and he would give it. Sa-lo-me asked her moth-er what she should ask from the king, and this bad wom-an told her to ask that the head of John the Bap-tist be cut off and brought to Her-od on a great dish. The girl went back to the king and made known her wish ; now Her-od did not want to do this, but at the same time he would not break his word ; and so this great and good man whom Je-sus loved and praised was killed to please a bad wom-an.

The dis-ci-ples of Je-sus were not with Him when He heard this sad news ; He had sent them out, two by two, to bear the Word of God, and to do good deeds, in strange

lands. When they came back to Him, so well had they done their work, that the whole world rang with the name of Je-sus, and crowds, vast, each day stayed with Him all the time.



John the Bap-tist be-head-ed.

He could get no rest by night or day; and so one day, worn out and weak with work, He took His dis-ci-ples and crossed the sea of Gal-i-lee, in search of a place where He would not be known, and so could rest and gain strength

to go on with his work. He chose a vast plain near the small town of Beth-sai-da (House of Fish, this name means), and here they brought the boat to land and thought to find rest. But this was not to be : as they stepped on the shore, so great a crowd met their gaze, that it seemed as if the whole world had come to meet Je-sus. The folks whom He had left in Ca-per-na-um had walked round the lake to greet Him, and this throng had been joined by hosts of Jews, who were on their way to Je-ru-sa-lem to keep the Pass-o-ver. As the keen eyes of Je-sus fell on this mass of men, wom-en and chil-dren, He knew that a great work was here for Him to do. So He put from Him all thoughts of self, and worked with them all the long day. He healed the sick, He gave health and strength to those who were weak ; He preached and He taught, He said "No" to none who came to Him with faith in their hearts.

At last, the long day came to an end ; the blue lake shone in the last bright rays of the sun, as it sank to rest, and the still calm night came on ; but this great crowd still hung on the words of Je-sus. Then the dis-ci-ples came to Je-sus and said : "The night comes on—these folks have no food, they are faint and worn ; send them to the town that they may buy food." When this thought of food was brought to the mind of Je-sus, He looked on these folks who had come so far to hear His words, and had not the heart to send them all the way to the town. He knew well the pow-er that God had placed in His hands, and was glad to use it at this time. He told His dis-ci-ples not to send the folks from Him, but to find out what food there was in the place. Word was brought to Him that there were five loaves of bread and two small fish ; what were these in so great a crowd ? At least five thou-sand must be fed.



Je-sus then told His dis-ci-ples to make the folks sit down on the grass in groups of fifty each and that He would give them all food. All was done as He said, then He blessed



Je-sus feed-eth five thou-sand.

the food, broke it in small bits and gave it to the dis-ci-ples that they might pass it to the crowd. These twelve men had such trust in Je-sus, that they knew in some way this strange thing would come out right—so they passed through

the long straight lines made by the small groups and gave to each one all that was asked. The fish and the bread did not give out; when the last man had had all that he could eat still there was some left. The five thousand ate till they could eat no more, and when they rose from the grass so much food was left that the disciples at the word of Jesus picked up twelve baskets full of food.

None of all the great acts of Jesus had so moved folks as this one had; they felt sure now that he was in truth the Messiah; they would have crowned Him their King and borne Him in state to Jerusalem. The disciples were no less moved than the rest of the men and Jesus knew this; so, as it was not His will to be crowned king here on earth, He told his disciples to go at once to the boat and leave Him where he was; then, He sent the crowd off too, for so great was His power, that men did His word at once.

When all had left Him, He climbed to the top of a hill which rose in the midst of the plain, and there, worn and faint, He sank down to rest and pray.

Not long did Jesus have to talk to His Father nor to rest, for the morn had not yet come, when, as He looked off on the lake where His boat tossed and rocked, He saw that His disciples had need of Him. A sharp gust of wind had lashed the small waves into big ones that broke over the boat and made it hard for the men to steer to the place where Jesus had told them to go. When Jesus saw that all their hard work was in vain, He went at once to their help; but to reach them He must give fresh proof of His power.

They were far off on the lake; He stood on the shore; they could not come to Him; He had no boat on which to sail to them. But Jesus, who could bring the dead back to

life, was Lord, too, of the sea and of the land ; He stepped on the waves, that now curled their white crests and broke with loud roars on the shore ; and He walked on the rough water as if it were smooth glass.



“ As his faith grew faint, Pe-ter sank down in the cold wa-ter. Then he gave a cry to Je-sus :—‘ Lord, save me.’ ”

When His dis-ci-ples saw Him come near them, still and calm on the wild sea, they were filled with fear. But Je-sus’ clear voice rang out sweet and firm : “ It is I ; be not

a-fraid." Did they still fear, or was it love for Je-sus, a wish to be near Him, that made Pe-ter say : " Lord, if it be Thou, bid me come to you." Je-sus told Pe-ter to come to Him if he would ; and Pe-ter sprang from the boat and stepped on the waves with faith in his heart. But the waves dashed high, and the thought of Je-sus went out of Pe-ter's heart and fear came in ; as faith grew faint, Pe-ter sank down in the cold wa-ter. Then he gave a cry to Je-sus :—" Lord, save me " ; and Je-sus stretched forth his hand, that had saved so ma-ny, and drew Pe-ter from the black waves, while He said to him in a sad voice : " Oh, how weak was your faith : why didst thou doubt ? " Soon Je-sus and Pe-ter were safe in the boat ; and then the wind ceased, the waves fell, and in a short time they came to the point of land they had tried so hard to reach. When they were all safe on the shore, they fell down at Je-sus' feet and said : " Of a truth, thou art the Son of God."

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## CHAPTER XIII.

JE-SUS TELLS MEN THAT HE HAS COME TO THEM AS THE SON OF GOD ; THAT HE IS NOT TO BE CROWNED AS KING HERE ON THE EARTH.

JE-SUS now was so loved by all the great hosts of folks, to whom He had been kind and good, that they wished to crown Him as King of the Jews ; but though they would let Him be their king in this world, we shall now see that they would not take Him as the Son of God. When Je-sus and His dis-ci-ples stepped on the shore, they found there a great crowd from all parts of the land, come to get help.



Those whom Je-sus had fed with bread and fish were there with the rest ; they had gone back to the spot where they had left Je-sus, and when they found that He had gone, they crossed the lake to seek Him in Ca-per-na-um. When they found Him, they asked how He had come there ; they knew He had not walked so far, and that His dis-ci-ples had gone off with the boat. Je-sus did not tell them of how He had walked on the sea ; but He told them He knew why they had come to seek Him ; not for love of His words, but that He might feed them.

Then He said that He could do more than give them bread to eat ; for He was the bread of life, and God had sent Him to give life to the whole world and save men from sin and the fear of death. They asked Him how He could prove these words ; and Je-sus told them that they ought to know from His great works that He was the Son of God. This claim was too much for the faith of these folks ; most of them knew him as the son of Jo-seph and Ma-ry, as a man who lived as they did, save for His great works, and so they did not trust Him. They said He might be a wise man, He might be a great king here on the earth,—but He could not be the Mes-si-ah, the Son of God.

So crowds turned from Him and went back to their homes. Then Je-sus asked His dis-ci-ples if they, too, would leave Him ; but Pe-ter said :—" Lord, to whom could we go ? You have the words of truth and life ; we know that you are the Son of God."

The claim of Je-sus to be the Son of God made such a stir in the land of the Jews that it seemed best to Him to leave for a time. So He and the dis-ci-ples went to the coasts of Tyre and Si-don, where the folks were not Jews. As Je-sus did not wish to be known, He went in a house and tried to

keep out of sight; but a Greek wo-man, whose child was crazed, heard that He was there and begged help for her child.

At first Je-sus would give her no aid; He said he had not come to help the Greeks; His work was but with the Jews. We know Je-sus did this just to try the wo-man's faith; for He had come to help the whole world. But this wo-man had great faith, and she fell at His feet and begged still more hard for His aid. Je-sus then said:—"It is not right to take bread from the chil-dren and give it to dogs." Still the wo man clung to Him, and said:—"That is the truth, Lord; but dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the mas-ter's table." When Je-sus found that He could not shake her faith, then He filled her heart with joy, for He said: "Oh, wo-man, great is your faith; I have not found so great faith in all Is-ra-el! Be it with you as you will." At that same hour her child's mind was made clear and strong:

Je-sus stayed but a short time in these parts; then He went back to the Sea of Gal-i-lee, and here He made more great cures. A man who was both deaf and dumb was brought to Him; Je-sus just touched his ears and his lips, and, at once, the man heard and spoke. Then, when He was at Beth-sa-i-da, a man who had been blind from his birth came to Him and begged for help. Je-sus went out of the town with this man, and then He touched the blind eyes with spit from His mouth and laid His hands on them. He then asked the man if he could see, and the blind man said "he could see men walk, but that they looked like trees." Once more Je-sus touched his eyes, and told him to look up, and this time his sight was clear and bright. Je-sus then told him to go to his home, not through the town, though, nor must he tell folks who had cured him. Je-sus,

tried, at this time, not to have all His great and kind deeds known; for He had no wish to cause strife just yet; but those whom He cured could not keep still, and the whole world rang with His name, and yet,—folks would not take Him as the Son of God.

One day, just at this time, Jesus asked His disciples whom folks said He was. They told Him that some thought He was John the Baptist, raised from the dead; and some that one of the old wise men of the Jews had come back to earth. Then said Jesus, “But whom do you say?” Peter at once said what must have soothed and made glad the sad heart of Jesus:—“You are the Christ, the Son of God!” Jesus blessed Peter for these words.

Now, the disciples felt sure that Jesus had come from God to save the world from sin; they knew He was the king for whom the Jews had looked so long, but they did not know how He meant to do his work. They thought that in His own time He would change from a poor man to a great king, who would have wealth and power; they did not think that to save the world our dear Lord was to die a cruel death. Jesus knew all their thoughts, and He felt now that their love and trust in Him was so strong that they could bear to know the truth. So one day, when He found them at strife as to which one of them should be first when He ruled as a great king here on earth, He told them that He was not to be a great king here, but was to be put to death on the cross. He told them of all the shame and scorn that He would have to bear in Jerusalem, and He spoke of all the pain and woe that He must bear, so that the world could be saved from its sin. Then, when their hearts were so sad it seemed that they must break, He told them that on the third day from His death

He would rise from the grave and come to them once more.

Then He said that His throne was in Heaven, and that those who shared His life here on earth should share His throne on high. He told His dis-ci-ples just how they must live, and we must do the same if we wish to please Je-sus. We must think less of the things of this world than of the things of God ; we must be glad to give up wealth and high place if it is God's will ; yes, we must give up life, if that is the way to do the work of God. All this and much more did Je-sus teach ; and then He said :—" What good shall it be to a man if he gain the whole world and yet lose his soul ? "

From this time on Je-sus spoke much to the dis-ci-ples of His death, which he knew was near at hand, and He gave them rules by which to live when He should be gone from them.

Je-sus loved to go on top of the high hills and spend hours a-lone with his Fa-ther ; so He gained strength for His work. One day, just as the sun set, He had come with the twelve to the foot of Mt. Leb-a-non. He called to Him the three whom He seems to have most loved,—Pe-ter, James and John, and told them He wished them to climb to the top of the hill with Him. When they had reached the top, Je-sus prayed a-loud for a time, then went a short ways from them and spoke to His Fa-ther words they could not hear. While they looked on His dear face, though, the lines of care and pain passed from it, and it shone as bright as the sun on high. His robe, too, seemed as if made of light, so white and pure did it look. While they gazed in awe two men, in the same white robes of light, stood by the side of Je-sus, and the dis-ci-ples knew them for Mo-ses



and E-li-jah, who had died long ere they were born. Then said Pe-ter:—"Lord, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tents: one for you, one for Mo-ses, and one for E-li-jah." While he spoke, a bright cloud hung low over



"Two men in white robes of light, stood by the side of Je-sus, and the dis-ci-ples knew them for Mo-ses and E-li-jah."

the place where they stood, and from its depths came the voice of God, as He once more claimed Je-sus for His Son:—"This is my loved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear Him."

Then the dis-ci-ples fell on the ground in fear ; but Je-sus came to them, touched them, and said :—" Rise and fear not." They rose at His words, and saw that all the strange sight had gone ; none stood with them but Je-sus, and from His face and robe had passed the white light. He was to their sight as He had been, but in their hearts still rang the words of His Fa-ther, and they knew they were to do His will and heed His words. They would have told all men of this great thing, but Je-sus said that they must not speak of it till He was raised from the dead.

When they reached the foot of Mount Leb-a-non, a great crowd stood there ; from it came a man who knelt at the feet of Je-sus and begged aid for his son, whose mind was so crazed and wild that he tried to take his own life. This man said that he had brought his boy to the dis-ci-ples, but that they could not help him. Then, said Je-sus, " Bring him to me." When this poor boy was brought to Je-sus, He asked the fa-ther how long he had been in such a sad state, and the man said since he was a small boy. Je-sus then told him that his son's cure was in his own hands ; if he had faith the boy could be helped. With tears and sobs the man said : " Lord, I do trust Thee, and I have some faith ; help me to have more." Then the sweet voice of Je-sus fell on the wild brain, and the boy at once grew calm and still ; so still that folks thought he was dead ; but Je-sus raised him up, and let the crowd see that he was strong and full of life.

## CHAPTER XIV.

## JE-SUS GIVES LIFE TO LAZ-A-RUS, WHO WAS DEAD.

JE-SUS loved lit-tle chil-dren, and once taught a great truth to His dis-ci-ples, by the use of a lit-tle child. He heard them one day at strife as to which one should stand near His throne, and have the best place in the king-dom of Heaven. It grieved Je-sus to hear them use harsh words, and to hear each claim that he was the best, that he had done the most good in the world, and so should have the best place on high. So Je-sus just took a lit-tle child in His arms, and then said to the men: "Look at this child and learn from him how you should act; he is the least of you all; he is meek; he is not proud; he does not boast of the good that he has done, nor seek to hold a high place. So must you be; you should not try to be first, but each should try to help the rest. He who is most like this child shall be great in the king-dom of Heav-en, and he who is least like him shall hold a low place."

Then He talked to them a long while of the love God had for the least things in the world; the poor, the weak, the bad, and the young; God cared for them all. He told them of a shep-herd who had one hun-dred sheep in his care; one small lamb strayed off and was lost, and the shep-herd left the whole flock and searched for the lost lamb and brought it safe home. "He felt more joy," said Je-sus, "when he found this one lost lamb than o-ver all the nine-ty and nine big sheep that were safe in the fold." Then said our Lord,

this is the way God feels for one poor soul that strays from the good life that God would have him lead.

It was just at this time that a wise man of the Jews came to Jesus and asked what he should do to be saved. Jesus said: "What does your own law teach you?" The man said it told him to love God with all his heart and soul and strength, and to love and help men as well. Then Jesus told him that if he did those things he would be saved. But the man then asked, what kind of folks he must love and help. To make the man see just what He meant, Jesus spoke this par-a-ble: A man was on his way to Jer-i-cho from Je-ru-sa-lem; some thieves met him, who stole all his goods, beat him, and left him half dead on the road. Soon a priest came by; he saw the man, but paid no heed to him; he crossed the road and went on his way. Next came a man who was a Le-vite, and he too passed the hurt man by, and gave no aid. Last came by a Sa-mar-i-tan; when he saw the sad state this man was in, he stopped by him; he poured on his wounds sweet oil and wine that would cleanse and heal them, and then he bound them up. Then he placed the man on his own beast and took him to an inn; he sat by him, and cared for him all through the night, and when he left the next day he gave gold to the man who kept the inn, and told him if he gave the sick man good care he would give him more the next time he came. When Je-sus had come to the end of the par-a-ble, He asked the wise man which of the three men had kept the law; of course he said the Sa-mar-i-tan had. "That is right," said Je-sus, "and the tale shows us that we must love and help all men; none are too low, too poor, or too bad."

Near Je-ru-sa-lem was the small town of Beth-a-ny; here Jesus had some warm friends, in whose home he was glad



to rest from his hard work. They were two sisters, Ma-ry and Mar-tha, and their broth-er, Laz-a-rus. Martha was at the head of the house, and gave a great deal of thought as to the work of the house, and how the meals should be



“Ma-ry sat at the feet of Je-sus that she might lose no word that fell from His lips.”

served. When Je-sus, whom they all loved, was their guest, she felt that no pains should be spared to have all things in the home of the best. One day, when Je-sus came to them, Ma-ry, in her joy at the sight of her Lord, gave no

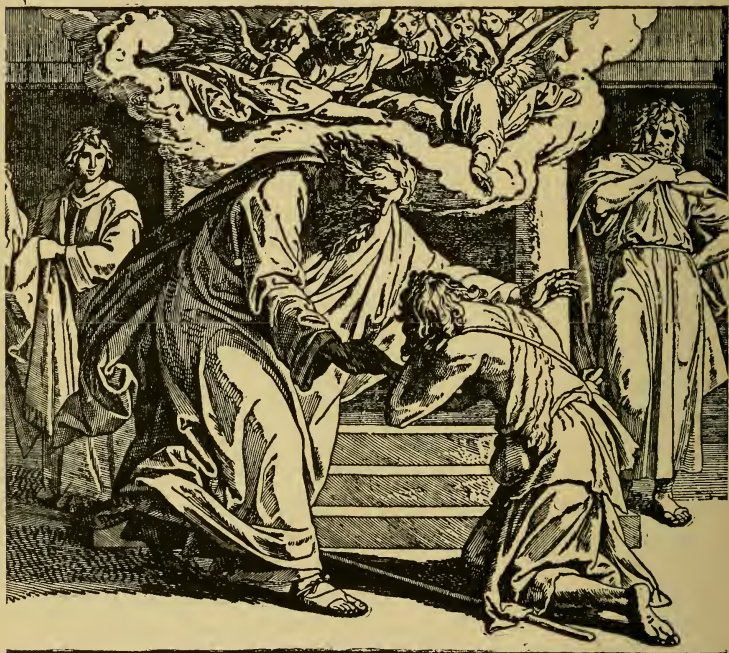
thought to the work of the house, but just sat at His feet that she might lose no word that fell from His lips. This vexed Martha, who thought Ma-ry should help her; so she came to Je-sus and asked Him to bid Ma-ry come and help her. But Je-sus said: "Mar-tha, Ma-ry knows what it is best to do. You give too much thought to the cares of the house, and so have no time to hear My words. Do not call Ma-ry from Me, but sit here with her and give heed to the truths I shall speak to you."

We can learn from this that the work of the world is not the best thing for us to give heed to; we must care for our souls as well, and learn how to keep them good and pure.

Je-sus told the Phar-i-sees, whose hearts were cold and proud, a par-a-ble, to show them that God's heart was warm and kind to all men, e-ven those who sinned most. This was the par-a-ble of "The Pro-di-gal Son." There was a rich man who had two sons; one of them tired of his home, and found his life there dull. So he asked his fath-er to give him his share of his wealth, and let him go out in the big world, and taste its joys. This the fath-er did, and the boy went to a far-off land, where he spent his gold, and lived a bad, wild life. Soon, he had no more gold; and all his rich clothes too were gone; then, he tried to get work, so that he might not starve to death. He could get but one thing to do; to take care of swine. He was a Jew, and they hate swine, so this was as low a thing as he could have found to do. But he was too poor to choose his work; and was so near starved that he was glad, not on-ly of the work but of the chance to eat the husks that were given to the swine to eat. Now, when his fine friends, who had cared but for his gold, had left him, and he was in this sad plight,

his mind turned to the dear old home and the kind good fath-er.

At last he could not stand this life long-er and made up his mind to go back to his fath-er and tell him that he was



“The son’s heart was touched at this proof of his fath-er’s love and he said :—  
‘Fath-er, I am not fit to be called your son.’”

too wick-ed to be called his son, but that he would be glad to work as a slave on his place.

So he rose at once, and set off for his home. The fath-er had

not put this lost son from his heart; but watched for him night and day in the hope that he would come once more to his home. So when he was still quite a long way off his father saw him, and ran to meet him, and fell on his neck and kissed him.

The son's heart was touched at this proof of his father's love and he said:—"Fath-er, I have sinned much in God's sight, and in yours; I am not fit to be called your son." But the fath-er called the men and said: "Bring forth the best robe and put it on him; place a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. Kill a fat young calf and make a great feast, at which we will all eat and be glad. This is my son, whom I thought was dead, but see, he lives. He was lost and is found." The old-est son, who had stayed at home all these years, was vexed at his fath-er's joy, and told him it was not right that more should be done for this bad son than for him who had led a good life. But the fath-er said to him as he had to his men, that it was right to make glad for this son who had turned from his bad life and come home.

This tale shows us that to those who have sinned the most, God will not be harsh if they leave their sin and come to Him. God feels the same grief when we are bad that this fath-er did for his son; and our Heav-en-ly Fath-er is just as glad to have us turn from sin and come to Him for help as the fath-er in the par-a-ble was to have his poor lost son come home.

You have seen that Jesus thought a great deal of little chil-dren, and now there comes a time in which He shows most clear His deep warm love for them. He had worked hard through a long day; and as the night came on He was worn out and in need of rest.



But in the crowd that pressed close to Him were some folks who wished Jesus to lay His hands on their children and bless them. So they came to Him, with their babies in their arms; the disciples, who knew how tired Je-sus



“Then, tired as He was, Je-sus drew the chil-dren close to Him and laid His hands on their heads and blessed them.”

was, tried to keep them back, for they thought that the work of Jesus was far too great to be brought to such young chil-dren. But Je-sus heard them, and saw the lit-tle ones, and He said: “Do not keep the chil-dren from Me;

let them come to Me, for of such are the kingdom of Heav-en." Then, tired as He was, He drew the children close to Him and laid His hands on their heads and blessed them.

So you see, you are none of you too young to come to Jesus. He loves you all and keeps the thought of each one in His heart.

Jesus was at a place called Beth-a-ba-ra, when word came to Him in haste from Ma-ry and Mar-tha that Laz-a-rus lay ill at the home in Beth-a-ny. "Lord, he whom you love is sick, haste to him," was the cry of the sad sis-ters.

Je-sus did not go at once to Beth-a-ny ; He stayed for two days more in Beth-a-ba-ra ; and then, on the third day, He set out for Beth-a-ny. His dis-ci-ples tried in vain to keep Him from this town, which lay too near Je-ru-sa-lem ; for, in the great city, there were ma-ny who longed to put Him to death. But Je-sus told them that Laz-a-rus slept, and He must go to wake him. Then said His friends, "But if he sleeps, he will do well ;" then Je-sus told them in plain words that Laz-a-rus slept the sleep of death, and He must go to him at once. When the dis-ci-ples found that they could not keep Je-sus in a safe place they said they would go with Him and share what harm might come to Him.

As they drew near to Beth-a-ny they heard on all sides that Laz-a-rus was dead and had been four days in his grave. When Mar-tha heard that Je-sus was near she came at once to meet Him, and though He had not come to her broth-er when she sent Him word, she spoke no harsh word to Him. Though He had let her broth-er die she still had faith in Him, as her words showed : "Lord, if you had been here he would not have died ; and now I know that though he is dead, God will give to you all things for which you

ask." To these words Jesus said : "Laz-a-rus shall rise from the dead." "Yes," said Mar-tha, "I know that he will rise at the last day, when all the dead shall rise." Then Je-sus spoke those great words that give life and hope to the whole world now ; He said that through Him Laz-a-rus and all men should rise from the dead and live once more. That those who had faith, though they were dead, should rise from the dead. Then He asked Mar-tha if she had such faith, and she said, "Yes, Lord ; I know that you are the Son of God and can do all things."

Mar-tha now went to the house, where Ma-ry sat in tears, and told her that the Mas-ter wished for her. With Ma-ry sat some friends who had come to cheer her and Mar-tha, and they thought that Je-sus wished to go with the two sis-ters and weep at the grave of Laz-a-rus, so they all left the house and went with her to Je-sus.

Je-sus yet stood out-side of the town, just where Mar-tha had left him, and a crowd of folks were near him. Through them all passed Ma-ry, and fell in the dust at His feet, as she cried : "Lord, if you had been here, my broth-er had not died." Je-sus was much touched by her tears, and He said to those who stood near, "Where have you laid him?" They said, "Lord, come and see."

Now some of the Jews saw that Je-sus was much moved at the death of His friend, and they said, "See how much He loved him !" But some said, "If He can do such great works, why did He let Laz-a-rus die, whom He loved?" So those who loved Him and those who did not, a big crowd in all, came to the cave which was the grave of Laz-a-rus. A great stone closed the mouth of the cave, and Je-sus told the men to roll the stone a-side. When they had done so, He called in a loud voice, "Laz-a-rus, come

forth!" What a hush must have thrilled the great crowd; what awe filled their minds, as they heard these words said to a man who had been dead four days! How they



"When the men had rolled the stone a-way from the mouth of the grave, Je-sus called in a loud voice, 'Laz-a-rus, come forth!'"

fixed their eyes on the mouth of the cave! And as they looked, Laz-a-rus, in his white grave-clothes, came forth, and they all saw that Je-sus had pow-er over death as well as life.



Some who saw this great thing loved Je-sus for it and had trust in Him from that hour as the Son of God. Some, though, took the news to the priests and Phar-i-sees at Je-ru-sa-lem, and these men, who feared Je-sus, said: "What shall we do? This man does such strange things that He will win the hearts of all men, and they will make Him king. Then Rome will make war on us and crush our whole land. The high priest, Ca-i-a-phas, said that this must not be; they had best kill this one man, so that all the Jews should not die. But Je-sus knew that He was not yet through His work, so He went to a small town named E-phra-im, where he was far from Je-ru-sa-lem, and stayed there till next spring, when the great feast of the Pass-o-ver brought all the Jews to Je-ru-sa-lem.

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## CHAPTER XV.

### JE-SUS GOES TO JE-RU-SA-LEM.

WHILE Je-sus was in E-phra-im He did not cease to heal and help all who came to Him, and the hate a-against Him in Je-ru-sa-lem grew more fierce from day to day. In spite of this, when the spring came, Je-sus and His dis-ci-ples went up to Je-ru-sa-lem. They stopped on the road at Jer-i-cho, and near the gate sat a blind man named Bar-ti-me-us, who begged from all who passed through the gates. A great crowd of folks were with Je-sus, and they made such a noise that the blind man asked what it all meant. When he heard that Je-sus was there, all thoughts of alms passed from his mind, and he cried out in a loud voice:—"Oh, Je-sus, son of Da-vid, help me!" Je-sus stopped, at

the blind man's cry, and asked what he wished. Bar-ti-me-us said, "Lord, give me my sight." Then Jesus, who knew what deep trust in Him Bar-ti-me-us had, said, "Go your way, your faith has made you whole." Sight came at once to the blind eyes, and Bar-ti-me-us rose and gave thanks and joined the crowd who went with Jesus. All the folks in Je-ri-cho wished to see Jesus, and crowds lined the streets through which He passed. There was a rich man named Zac-che-us, who was chief of all to whom the Jews had to pay their tax. He was not a good man; he had grown rich by fraud, and had sinned in many ways. But he, too, wished to see Jesus, and so, as he was a short man, he climbed up in a tree, and from this high perch looked down on the great throng and the man in the midst, on whom all eyes were fixed.

When Jesus came to the tree He raised His eyes to the spot where Zac-che-us sat and said, "Come down, Zac-che-us, I will be your guest this day." Jesus knew the hate that the Jews had for Zac-che-us; He knew all the sin in his bad heart, but He knew, too, that the man had need of Him. So, with no thought of what folks might think, He first tried to save this one soul. Zac-che-us from that hour loved Jesus, and said he would do all that he could to make up for his bad life. He said he knew he had been cruel to the poor, and that he would now give one-half of all his wealth to them, and that he would give to those from whom he once took more than he should five times the sum that he took. This showed that he felt grief for his sins and meant to try and live a good life, so Jesus went to his home with him. To those who found fault with His act, Jesus said that He had come to earth to seek and save those who were lost.

The next day Je-sus went out to Beth-a-ny ; he stayed at the home of Laz-a-rus, and Martha made a great feast for Him.

While they sat at meat, Ma-ry came in and knelt at



“ While they sat at meat, Ma-ry came in and knelt at Je-sus' feet.”

His feet ; as she did so a sweet smell filled the air, and it was seen that she had poured on His feet a rare, sweet ointment that was worth much gold. One of the dis-ci-ples, Ju-das Is-car-i-ot, did not like this act of Ma-ry's ; he said,

"This ointment should have been sold for a great sum, which then could have been used to help the poor." Ju-das did not care for the poor, but he kept the bag in which all the funds of the dis-ci-ples were kept, and he was such a bad man that he wished to have all that he could put in this bag, so that he could steal from it. At his harsh words, Ma-ry's eyes filled with tears; but Je-sus said, "Let Ma-ry be; she has done a good deed to me, which shall be told through the whole world. The poor you will have with you all the time, but I shall not be here long, for the time of my death is near, and Ma-ry has done this for my death."

This great feast had been held on the Sab-bath, and on the next day Je-sus set forth, for the last time, on the road to Je-ru-sa-lem. The whole world now knew Je-sus for a great man; some, we know, loved Him; some had but hate for Him, but all wished to look on Him. Though Je-sus knew that hosts of folks would come to see Him as He came to Je-ru-sa-lem, He did not wish to go there save as the poor man who came to earth to save men from sin. He did not wish to go in state as a great prince or a king, though He could have done so had He wished. He told His dis-ci-ples to go to a small town called Beth-phage; there they would find tied an ass and a colt. They were to bring the colt to Him; and if the man who owned it should ask why they did it, they were to say:—"The Lord hath need of it." The dis-ci-ples did all as He said; and when they had brought the colt to Him, they laid their robes on the colt's back, and Je-sus sat on them, and so rode in-to Je-ru-sa-lem.

As Je-sus drew near the Ho-ly Cit-y, a great throng came out to meet Him. They cast their robes on the ground at



His feet, and they broke boughs from the palm trees that lined the roads, and they waved these in the air and cried out in their joy,—“Ho-san-na to the Son of Da-vid! Blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” So while glad



“As Jesus drew near the Ho-ly Cit-y, a great throng came out to meet Him, cry-ing,  
—‘Ho-san-na to the Son of Da-vid.’”

Ho-san-nas rang to the skies, Je-sus rode on to Je-ru-sa-lem, and to His death.

As He neared the cit-y and looked on her great walls and her Tem-ple of gold and white, He thought how soon the hosts

of Rome would break down the walls, lay waste the fair cit-y, starve the poor folks who lived there, and burn the House of God to the ground.

As these thoughts filled His mind, He cried out,—“ Ah, Je-ru-sa-lem, if you had but known the things which would give you peace! But now it is too late, they are hid from you. Foes shall come who will dash you to the ground, and will not leave one stone to stand.”

Through the gates of the cit-y and on to the great Temple passed the crowd, and here the boys who sang in the House of God joined in the glad Ho-san-nas. When the Phar-i-sees and priests heard them, they came to Je-sus and asked Him if He heard what the chil-dren said. Je-sus said,—“ Yes, I hear them; but have you not heard that from the mouths of chil-dren the truth shall come?”

Je-sus then passed on in-to the Tem-ple; and once more we see Him drive out those who bought and sold in the ho-ly place. For four days now Je-sus taught and preached all day in the Tem-ple; He felt no fear, though He knew well that the hate of the Phar-i-sees and priests grew each day more hot and fierce. They dared not touch Him, for His friends kept close to Him, but they kept close watch on His acts and His words, and they asked Him things which they hoped would catch Him, so that the law could put Him to death. But Je-sus was far more wise than they, and no fault could be found with Him.

Each night Je-sus went back to Beth-a-ny to rest in the house of Laz-a-rus.

## CHAPTER XVI.

## JU-DAS GIVES JE-SUS UP TO HIS FOES.

ONE of the twelve dis-ciples (Ju-das Is-car-i-ot) was, as we have seen, a bad man ; he cared far more for gold than he did for Je-sus, and at last his love for gold grew so strong that he made up his mind to sell his Lord to those who wished to kill Him. With this bad thought in his heart, he went to the house of the high priest and asked how much he would be paid if he gave Je-sus up to them. It was a small sum that was named, but Ju-das said he would do it for that price. You would not think that Ju-das could now go back and take his place by Je-sus' side with the rest of the dis-ciples, but so hard and wick-ed was his heart that he did, and now watched to find a time and place when he could give Je-sus up.

The next day the great Feast of the Pass-o-ver was to be kept, and the dis-ciples asked Je-sus where they should meet to eat it. He said to them, "Go in-to Je-ru-sa-lem, there you will meet a man who bears a jar of wa-ter. Keep close to him, and when he goes in-to a house say to him that the Mas-ter asks where is the guest-room in which He may eat the Pass-o-ver. He will show you a large room, and in it you shall set out the feast." Pe-ter and John were the ones to whom Je-sus gave this work to do, and all things were done as He had said. When the night came on, Je-sus and ten of the dis-ciples, Ju-das with the rest, met these two and sat down to eat this last meal, which was to prove such a sad one.

We have seen how many times Je-sus had told the disciples that they must be meek and not wish for high place, and yet at this hour we see them at strife as to who



“Je-sus, with a ba-sin of wa-ter in His hands, went to each of the dis-ci-ples and washed their feet.”

should sit in the chief place at the board spread with the feast. As Je-sus heard their words of strife and saw the cause, He rose from His place, and, with a ba-sin of wa-ter in His hands, went to each and washed their feet. When



it was Pe-ter's turn, he said,—“ Lord, thou shalt not wash my feet.” Then said Je-sus, “ If I do not, you have no part in me.” Then Pe-ter told the Lord, if this was so, he would have Him wash, not just his feet, but his hands and his head as well.

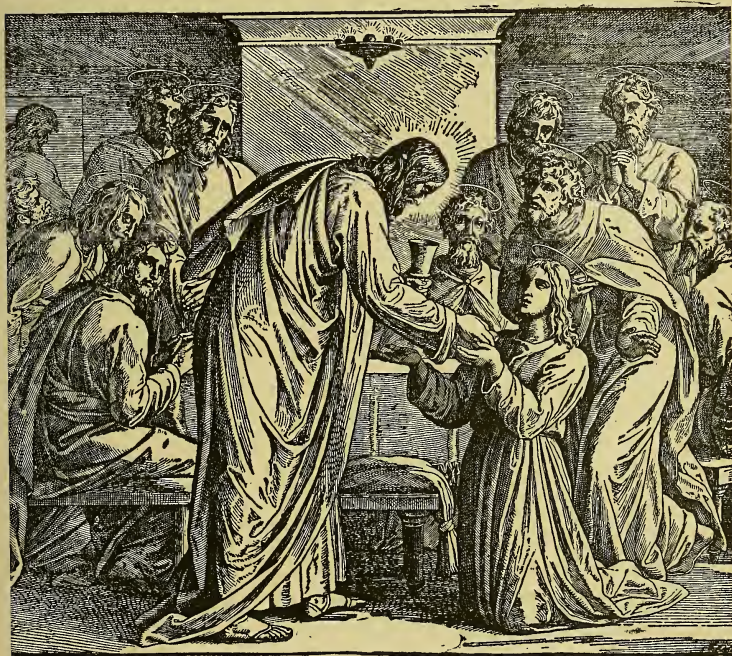
When Je-sus had washed their feet, He told them that He had done it to show them that if He, their Mas-ter, was not too great to serve them, not one of them must think he was too great to take a low place in the world, and to help those who were so low that no one else would care for them.

The meal which Je-sus and the dis-ci-ples now ate has been known through all the years that have passed since then as “ The Last Sup-per.” While they sat at the feast Je-sus told them that one of them was to give Him up to death. None knew what Je-sus meant save Ju-das ; to the rest, His words came with a great shock. To think that one of them, who so loved Him, could do so base an act. No one seemed to have thought that Ju-das was the one meant ; a doubt seems to have crept in-to the heart of each man there ; for, one by one, they asked, “ Lord, is it I ? ”

Je-sus said, “ It is he who shall dip his hand in the dish with me.” This did not set their minds at rest ; and so Pe-ter begged John, whom Je-sus loved so well, to ask once more who it was. Then Je-sus said, “ It is he to whom I shall give the bread when I have dipped it.”

A sauce of wine and dates was served at this feast ; the herbs which were used were wrapped round a piece of bread and dipped in this sauce, and then passed by the host to his guests. When Je-sus came to this part of the feast, He passed the dish first to Ju-das. As this wick-ed dis-ci-ple took the bread from his Master's hand, he tried, yet at this hour, to make Je-sus and the rest think him true ; for he

asked, "Lord, is it I?" Je-sus said, "You have said;" and then, as if He was in haste to have the dread hour pass, He adds. "Make haste, Ju-das, to do your work."



"Je-sus took the cup in His hands and gave thanks and blessed it ; then He gave them to drink."

Ju-das could play his false part no more, and he slipped from the room and went straight to the foes of Je-sus. He knew all the acts of Je-sus so well that he was sure when the feast was done He would go to the Mount of Olives to

pray. He knew that Je-sus would take with Him just His dis-ci-ples, and that a band of armed men could with ease put to flight these few men and take their Lord from them. So he told all this to the chief priests, the scribes, and the Phar-i-sees, and said he would take them to the spot where Je-sus prayed.

When Ju-das had left the room, Je-sus spoke words of love to His dis-ci-ples, and told them what He would like them to do that they might bear Him in mind when he had left them. He broke some of the bread used at the feast, blessed it, and gave it to them to eat, and said : "Take, eat ; this is my bod-y (flesh) which I give for you ; do this that you may keep me in your hearts." Then He took the wine cup in His hands and gave thanks and blessed it ; then He gave them to drink and said : "Drink you all of this ; it is my blood which is shed to save you from your sins."

We keep this "Last Sup-per" to-day from time to time in the church ; we do as Je-sus that night told His dis-ci-ples to do. Each time we do it, it brings to our minds the great love of Je-sus for us, and should help us to vow that we will try still more hard to love and serve Him.

Je-sus spoke such words of love and peace that the sad hearts of His dis-ci-ples must have been soothed. He said : "Do not fear, nor let your hearts be sad. It is true that I must go from you, but I will not leave you a-lone. Peace, my peace, I leave with you ; not such peace as the rest of the world knows, but the peace that comes just to those who know and love me." Then when the last sweet talk was at an end, and they were through with the feast, they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Ol-ives. As they went on their way Je-sus told them that that night they would all know fear through their love for Him. To



these words, Peter said, "I will not fear, Lord." Jesus said, "Peter, ere the cock crows three times you will say three times that you do not know me." Then said Peter,



"Je-sus left His dis-ci-ples to watch while He went a little way off to pray to His Fath-er."

"Though I should die, yet will I not do this;" and all the dis-ci-ples said the same thing.

Now Je-sus came to a grove of trees on the hill, known by the name of Geth-sem-a-ne. Je-sus had come so much



to this spot to rest and pray that the false Ju-das knew it well. When they now reached it, Je-sus took with Him Peter, James and John, but said to the rest, "Sit you here while I go and pray." When He had come with the three to the dark grove, He said to them, "My soul is most sad; sit here and watch with me." Then He left them and went in-to the depths of the dark woods to speak to His Father, and to bear such grief and pain that none must be near to see Him.

As the thought of all He was so soon to bear filled His mind, Je-sus fell on His face and raised His voice to God and said, "Oh, my Father, if it can be let this cup pass from me; yet not my will, but Thine, be done."

Three times did our Lord pray this sad prayer; at the end of each prayer He went back to Peter, James and John, and found them in a sound sleep.

Once He waked Peter and said: "Could you not watch for me just one short hour?" When He came back to them for the third time and found that they still slept, He said: "Sleep on now and take your rest, for the hour is come when the Son of Man is put in the hands of his foes. Rise, let us go: he who gives me up is at hand." As he spoke lights flashed in the dark place, a rude noise broke the still night air, and Ju-das and a band of armed men came up to the little group of three men.

In the far east in those days men would greet their friends with a kiss, and Ju-das now came up to our Lord and said, "Hail, Master," and kissed Him. This was the sign by which he had told the men they should know Je-sus. All that Je-sus said when Ju-das gave Him this false kiss was, "Ju-das, do you give up the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Now the armed men came up with a great show of power, but Je-sus stepped out from the grove of trees and asked, "Whom do you seek?" When they said, "Je-sus of Naz-a-reth," He said, "I am He." So calm His words, so great



"Then Ju-das came up to Je-sus and said, 'Hail, Mas-ter,' and kissed Him."

His pow-er, that this whole band of men stood in awe of Him ; none touched Him. But Je-sus knew that His hour had come, and He said once more, "Whom seek ye?" When they said, "Je-sus of Naz-a-reth," He said, "Have

I not told you that I am He? If you seek me, take me, and let these men go their way." His one thought now was to save his friends. When the chief man of the band laid his hand on Jesus, one of the dis-ciples said, "Lord, shall we not strike them?" Ere Je-sus could speak, Pe-ter, in hot haste, struck one of the men who served the high-priest and cut off his ear. Je-sus wished no strife, nor fight; He would go with these men in peace; so He told Pe-ter and the rest to put up their swords. With a swift touch, He healed the man's ear, then turned to Pe-ter and said: "Do you think that these men could take me if I did not let them? I have but to ask and God would send an angel host to fight for me. But how then could I do the work for which I came?"

Je-sus then turned to the crowd and said: "Why have you come for me with swords and staves as if I were a thief? I taught all day in your Temple, but you did not lay your hands on me. This, though, is your hour."

When the dis-ci-ples heard these words they knew that He would not use His might to save His own life, but that He meant to go to His death. Then, lest they too should be killed, since they were known as His friends, they all fled from Him. Not one, save Ju-das, the false dis-ci-ple, was near Christ in the hour of His great need; and Judas went with the mob of men, not for love of Je-sus, we know, but that he might be paid for his wick-ed act.

## CHAPTER XVII.

## JE-SUS IS TRIED FOR HIS LIFE.

By the laws of the Jews, no man could be tried for his life at night ; but such was the haste of the foes of Je-sus that, though it was still far from dawn, they led Him at once to the house of Ca-i-phas, the high priest, where were all the chief priests and the court.

Peter, you know, had said that though he were killed for it, he would not be false to Je-sus, yet he had not dared to be seen near Him. He could not quite leave his Mas-ter to His fate, though, nor could John, whom Je-sus so loved, so the two had come to the house of the high priest, and while John, who knew the high priest, went in, Peter stood out by the door. John spoke to the maid who kept the door, and she let him bring Pe-ter in too. As he passed by her she said, "Are you one of this man's dis-ci-ples?" Peter, in his fear, said : "I am not." As he spoke these false words, far off a cock crowed, but Pe-ter did not hear it.

He then went off with some of the men and stood by a fire that he might get warm. From where he stood he could see Je-sus and hear all that was said to Him. It was a sad sight on which Pe-ter looked. Je-sus stood in the midst of His foes, with His hands bound fast with ropes, but He knew no fear, nor did He once fail to speak words that put them to shame and showed that there was no sin in Him. In vain did this high court try to find faults in His life ; they asked Je-sus who were in His band, and



what He had taught to men. Je-sus told them they had no need to ask Him ; to ask the crowds who had heard Him, far and near, in the land, and in the courts of their own great Tem-ple. One of the guards, who stood near,



“Je-sus stood in the midst of His foes with His hands bound fast with ropes.”

struck Je-sus as He said this, and said to Him, “Is this the way to speak to the high priest?” Je-sus turned to him and said : “If I speak wrong, prove it, but if I speak the truth, why do you strike me?”

Men had been hired to speak false words of Je-sus, and so try to prove that He ought to be killed, but no two told the same thing, so they could prove no wrong. At last came two who swore they had heard Him say that He could tear down the great Tem-ple and build it up in three days. The high priest asked Je-sus if this charge was true, but Je-sus would speak no word to him. Then Ca-i-phas, who wished to force Jesus to speak His own doom, said : "Are you the Son of God? I charge you, in the name of the Most High God, to tell me if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus knew what the end would be, if here and now, He claimed God as His Fath-er; but swift and sure His words rang out, "I am; and you shall yet see the Son of Man sit at the right hand of God and come in the clouds from Heav-en."

Then the high priest tore his clothes, to show how shocked he was at this claim of Je-sus, and he said, "What need of more proof? We have heard His own words. What do you think?" Then the whole court said, "He should be put to death."

This sham court now broke up and left Je-sus in charge of the guard. They struck Him and spit on Him, and put Him to shame, but He spoke no word to them, though He could have killed them all had He so wished. At last they bound His eyes, so that He could not see, and then they struck Him and said : "Tell us, oh, Christ, who is it that strikes you?" Not a word from the Lord of them all; He is worn and faint from the sor-row He bore in Geth-sem-ane, and from the pain and shame of the past hours, but His lips are closed, He makes no moan. Just at this time one of the men who stood near Pe-ter said to him : "Are you not one of His dis-ci-ples?" Still in fear of his life, Pe-

ter said, "I am not." In the still air rang the crow of a cock, but in his fear Pe-ter heard it not. Then came one who was kin to the man whose ear Pe-ter had cut off; he said, "Did I not see you in the grove?" Once more Pe-ter



"Pe-ter said, 'I do not know Him,' and the cock crowed for the third time."

said, "I do not know Him." As, for the third time, Pe-ter said he did not know Je-sus, the cock crowed for the third time. Je-sus turned, too, and looked at Pe-ter, for He knew what, in his fear, Pe-ter had done. Then, as Pe-ter's



eyes met those of his Master's fixed on him in grief and pain, yet still full of love, he thought of what Christ had told him, and he left the court and went out and wept that he had been false to his Lord.

As soon as it was morn the court met once more, to talk of how they could put Je-sus to death. The Jews were ruled by the Ro-mans, and so, though their own courts said a man should die, they could not kill him till the Ro-man court gave them leave.

So they took Je-sus, bound as He was, and worn and faint with His weight of pain, to Pi-late, the Ro-man, who now ruled at Je-ru-sa-lem.

Ju-das had watched all the shame that had been put on Je-sus, and when he found that Je-sus would not use His pow-er to save His life, great grief for his act filled his heart. Then, when it was too late, he would give his life to save his Lord ; he broke in on the court and flung down the coin that he had been paid and said, "I have sinned ; there is no fault in Him !" But the priests said, "What is that to us ? See you to that." When Ju-das found he could not save Je-sus, his grief was so great that he went out and put an end to his own life. The priests picked up the coin ; they could not put it in the funds of the church, since it was the price of blood, so they bought with it a field in which to lay the dead who were too poor to have their own graves. This field is known to this day as the "Field of Blood."

When Je-sus was brought to Pi-late to be judged, the stern law of Rome could find no fault in Him. Pi-late asked the priests what crime they charged Him with. Now, these priests knew that they had so weak a case that Pi-late would not send Je-sus to death at their word, so they said to him, "If He had done no wrong we would not have



brought him to you." Then Pi-late said, "Judge Him by your own law "; for he knew they could not put Je-sus to death by their law. The Jews were vexed at his words, and



"When Ju-das found he could not save Je-sus, he went out and put an end to his own life."

they tried to make Pi-late think ill of Je-sus, so they told him that Je-sus had said that He was the King of the Jews.

Pi-late took Je-sus where none could hear what he asked Him, and then he said, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus said, "I am their king; but my kingdom is not of this world; if it were, those who serve me would fight for me and save me from the Jews." "But," said Pilate, "Are you in truth a king?" Jesus said: "You have said what I am; and I came to this world to bring the truth. He that is of the truth hears my voice." Pilate then asked of Jesus, "What is truth?"

He then left Him and went out to the Jews and said, "I find no crime in this man." When the chief priests heard this they charged Jesus with other faults; and to all that they said Jesus spoke no word. Pilate wished to free Jesus, and he said to Him, "Do you not hear all these crimes with which you are charged?" But still Jesus was dumb. Then the Jews said that Jesus had stirred up the land from Galilee to Jerusalem.

When Pilate heard that Jesus came from Galilee he saw the chance to get out of this case which so vexed him. Herod, the King of Galilee, was in Jerusalem, and to him Pilate sent Jesus to be judged.

Herod had heard of the great works done by Jesus and was glad to see Him, for he hoped that He would show him some sign of His power. But Jesus knew that in Herod's bad heart there was no faith in Him, and so He would not speak to him or do aught for him. This so vexed Herod that, though he could find no fault in Jesus, and could not put Him to death, yet he and his men mocked Him and put Him to shame; then they dressed Him in a rich robe, such as kings wore, and sent Him back to Pilate.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

## THE DEATH OF JE-SUS.

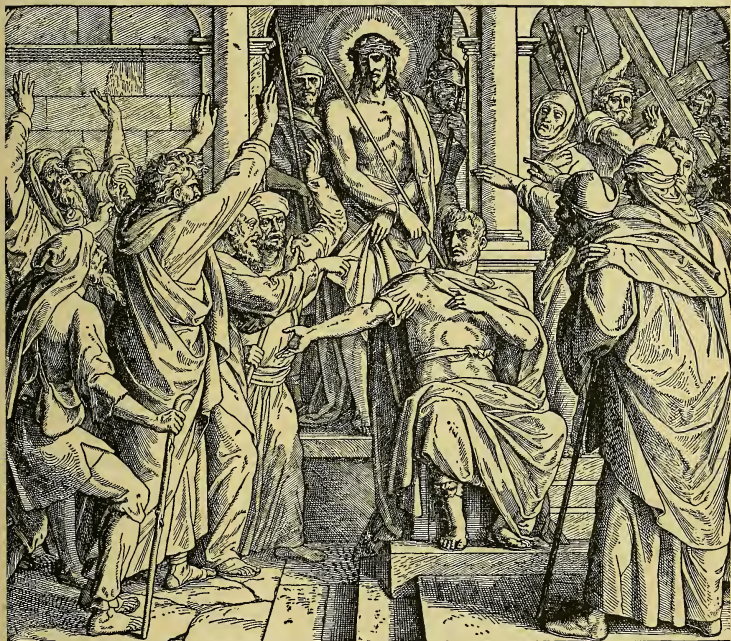
PI-LATE did not wish for the death of Je-sus, and when Christ was brought to him from Her-od, Pi-late still hoped to save His life. He called to him the chief priests and scribes and told them that since both he and Her-od could find no guilt in Christ, he would have to have Him whipped and then set free. Pi-late thought that it would please the priests if Je-sus was whipped, and yet that he could spare His life. But the priests wished for more than this, and so they urged the wild mob of men to cry out for the death of Je-sus. Pi-late's wish to save Je-sus was made still more strong by word that had come to him from his wife.

In those old days folks thought that God spoke to them in dreams, and Pi-late's wife had sent word to him that in a dream she had borne such fear and pain for this "just man" (Je-sus) that Pi-late must do Him no harm. So Pi-late now tried in one more way to save the life of Je-sus. At the great feasts of the Jews some one man shut up in jail for crime could be set free. So Pi-late said to the Jews that though Je-sus had done wrong in their sight, still he would set Him free at this time. But to this the wild mob cried, "No, not Je-sus, but Ba-rab-bas." Now, Ba-rab-bas was a bad man, who had killed some one and lay in jail for this crime.

Still Pi-late did not yield; he said to the Jews. "Shall I



put your King to death?" Then the Jews made Pi-late fear for his own high place, for they said: "We have no king but Cæ-sar; when Je-sus says He is our king, He is false to Cæ-sar; when he claims to be the Son of God, He



"Then said Pi-late, 'What shall I do with Je-sus, whom you all call King of the Jews?'"

does wrong to God. By our law He should be put to death, and if you save His life, you are no friend of Cæ-sar's, for you do not keep his laws."

Pi-late was moved by these words, for he stood in fear of



the great Cæ-sar, so he went to Je-sus once more and said to Him : "Tell me, who are you?" But Je-sus spoke no word. Then cried Pi-late, "Why will you not speak? Do you not know that it lies with me to set you free or to send you to death?" Je-sus then told Pi-late that he had no pow-er at all save such as was put in his hands by God. Once more Pi-late went over to the Jews and begged them to let him set Je-sus free, but loud and fierce the cry went up, "Not this man, but Ba-rab-bas." Then said Pi-late, "What shall I do with Je-sus, whom you all call King of the Jews?" The fierce hate of the priests urged on the mob of men, and up went the great cry that meant death to our Lord, "Cru-ci-fy Him! cru-ci-fy Him!" (This meant that they wished Je-sus to be nailed to the cross, for so were bad men put to death at that time). Still Pi-late begged for the life of Je-sus : "What is His crime? What wrong has He done?" But the great mob gave him no heed save to shout still more loudly, "Cru-ci-fy Him! cru-ci-fy Him!"

Pi-late did not dare say more; he feared that Cæ-sar might hear that he had tried to save the life of a man who claimed to be the King of the Jews, and that he might lose his high place. But he tried to put the blame of his own act on the Jews; he stood up where all could see him and washed his hands, as to free them from the stain of Je-sus' blood, and said : "I have no part in the death of this just man; it all lies with you." Then the Jews cried out, "His blood be on us and on our children."

Pi-late had done all that he could do, so now he freed Ba-rab-bas and gave Je-sus up to those who used the whip. When the cru-el whip had done its work, Je-sus was put in the hands of the guard, and these fierce men of war made

sport of our dear Lord. They dressed Him once more in the rich robe which Her-od had put on Him ; they made a crown of sharp thorns, and rude hands pressed it on His



“ They made a crown of sharp thorns, and rude hands pressed it on His head.”

head with such force that the skin was pierced and blood flowed from the wounds ; in His right hand a reed was placed. Then, when they had dressed Je-sus as a mock king, they knelt at his feet and cried, “ Hail, King of

the Jews!" They then spit on Him and snatched the reed from His hand and struck Him.

While these cruel acts were done Pi-late, the great Roman chief, had time to think; he could not drive the thought of Jesus from his mind. He knew that no guilt was in this man, and once more he tried to save His life. He took Jesus from the guard, and, dressed as He was, brought Him out in the sight of the mob of men who stood out in the street to lead Him to His death. But the sad, sweet face, marred by marks of blood and drawn with pain and woe, did not touch the hearts of these men, nor did Pi-late's words move them. "See this man!" said Pi-late, "I find no fault in Him." But up to the skies rang out the fierce cry, "Cru-ci-fy Him! Cru-ci-fy Him!" Then Pi-late knew he could do no more, and gave Jesus up to His death.

Out through the gates of Je-ru-sa-lem went the mob, with Jesus in its midst. He was forced to bear the cross on which He was to die, and faint and weak as He was, He sank down to earth with its weight. A man named Si-mon passed by at this time, and they stopped him and made him bear the cross of Jesus.

On went the crowd, now joined by hosts of men and women who had known and loved Jesus. Their grief at the sad fate of Him who helped all that came to Him in pain or woe was so great that their sobs and cries filled the air and fell on the ears of Jesus.

No pain of His own was so great that Jesus could not feel for those who grieved, and so He turned to those who wept and said: "Do not weep for me, oh women of Je-ru-sa-lem! Weep for your own selves and for your children. The day is near when you shall think that those who have



no chil-dren are blest. In your fear you shall call on the hills to hide you and the rocks to fall on you."

The hill where the cross was to be set up was round in



"Je-sus was forced to bear the cross on which He was to die, and faint and weak He sank down to the earth with its weight."

shape like a skull, and it was called Gol-goth-a, which means The Place of a Skull. The Jews wished to put as great shame on Je-sus as they could, so on each side of the



cross on which Je-sus was nailed they put a cross on which a thief was put to death.

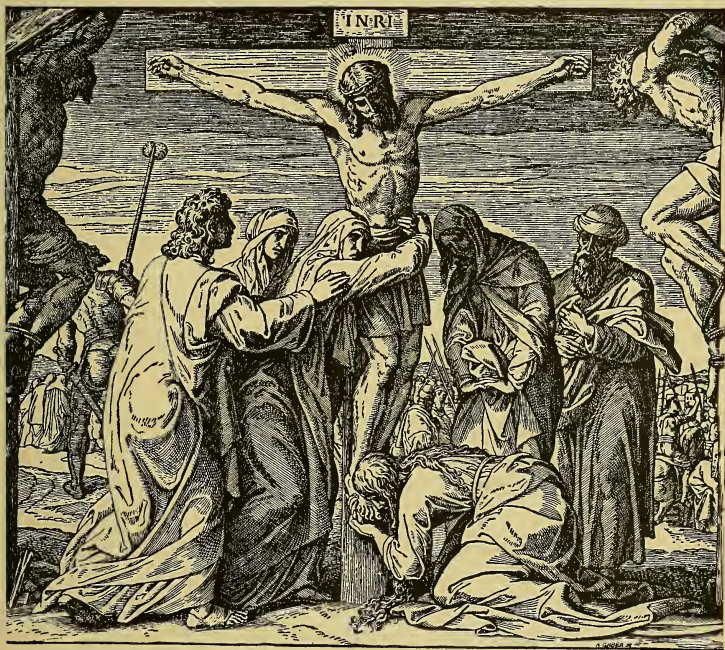
The great love Je-sus bore to men was shown by the words He said as they nailed Him on the cross: "Wipe out their sins, my Fa-ther, for they do not know what they do."

Pi-late had sent a sign to be placed on the cross which bore Je-sus. He wrote it with his own hand in three tongues, so that it could be read by all, and these are the words he wrote: "Je-sus of Naz-a-reth, the King of the Jews." Some of the priests told Pi-late that the sign should read that Je-sus *said* He was King of the Jews; but Pi-late would not have it changed, for he wished these priests who had ruled the mob of men and forced them to kill Je-sus to feel his scorn of their act.

Some of the chief men of the Jews who stood by in the crowd mocked at Je-sus and said: "He saved men; let Him save His own life, if He be the Son of God." One of the thieves, too, joined in this cry and said, "If you are the Christ, save your own life and ours too." But the oth-er thief said, "Have you no fear of God? It is right that we should die for our sin; but this man has done no wrong." Then he asked Je-sus to think of him when He came to His throne on high, and Je-sus said, "This day you shall be in Heav-en with me."

At the foot of the cross of Je-sus stood a group of His friends; with them was Ma-ry, the moth-er of Je-sus; Ma-ry Mag-da-len, whom Je-sus had saved from sin, and John, the best-loved dis-ci-ple. Je-sus' heart was wrung at His moth-er's grief, and at this last dread hour He longed to feel that when He could care for her no more she would be with one who had known and loved Him, and who would

give her the same love that He had. So He told John that He left His mother in his care ; then He bade Ma-ry look on John as her own son. From that hour John took Ma-ry to his own home.



“ At the foot of the cross of Je-sus stood his moth-er ; Ma-ry Mag-da-len, and John, the best-loved dis-ci-ple.”

It was now the noon hour ; but all at once the sun ceased to shine, and the whole land was as dark as in the dead of night. For three long hours there was no light, and Je-sus

hung there on the cross and bore His pain with no moan nor cry. But at the third hour He cried out in a loud voice, "My God! My God! Why have you left me?" Those who heard Him thought He cried for E-li-jah, and one man ran and wet a sponge with sour wine, and gave Him to drink, and said: "Let us see if E-li-jah will come and take Him down." But Je-sus, who knew that His work on earth was now done, cried out in a loud voice, "It is done;" then He bowed His head on His breast and died.

As the soul of Je-sus passed from this earth the veil that hung in front of the ho-ly place in the great tem-ple was torn from end to end; the earth shook and the rocks were split a-part; then from their graves came those who had been dead for years, and they walked in the streets and were seen by ma-ny. When those that watched Je-sus saw these things fear fell on them, and the truth of Je-sus' words came to their hearts, so that some of the wise and great men of the Jews said, "In truth, this was the Son of God." The death of Je-sus, you see, bore its fruit at once, for these men, who had felt but hate for Him while He lived, were drawn to Him when He died.

By the law of the Jews, no cross could stand on the Sabbath day, so when the sun once more shone those who were on guard must see that Je-sus and the two thieves were dead, so that the crosses on which they hung could come down. The thieves were not yet dead, and so, to end their lives at once, the sol-diers broke their legs. In Je-sus there was no sign of life; but still the guard must be sure He was dead, and so one of the sol-diers thrust his spear in Christ's side in such a way that if He were not dead the wound would kill him.

Je-sus had died a death of shame, but he was borne to a

rich tomb and laid there by those who loved Him. A rich and great man of the Jews, Jo-seph of Ar-i-ma-the-a, had long loved Jesus, but dared not show his love. Now, when Christ was dead, when the priests and the Phar-i-sees feared Him no more, Jo-seph dared show his love. He knew Pi-late well, and so begged from him the right to take care of the corpse of Je-sus. Pi-late could scarce think it true that Je-sus was dead; He had hung on the cross but six hours, and that was a short time in which one would die in this way. But the chief of his troops told him of the scene, and that Je-sus was in truth dead. Then he told Jo-seph he could have his way.

In Jo-seph's grounds was a new tomb, just cut from the rock; no dead had yet lain there, and it was the wish of Jo-seph that Je-sus should be placed there. He and Nic-o-de-mus,—one who for fear of the Jews had gone to Je-sus by night to learn of the truth,—took Je-sus down from the cross. In soft bands of lin-en, in which were rare, sweet spices, they wrapped His limbs; then, in haste and fear, they bore Him to the tomb and laid Him to rest. They rolled a great stone in front of the door, and then in haste went back to the town. They must reach Je-ru-sa-lem ere the sun set, for that would be the first hour of the Jews' Sab-bath. From far off Ma-ry, the moth-er of Je-sus, with Ma-ry Mag-da-len and some more wom-en of Gal-i-lee, who had known and loved Je-sus, saw where He was laid, and then went to their homes to fix the spices and drugs which in those days were placed on the dead when they were laid in their graves.

Now, the words of Je-sus that He would lay in the grave but three days had come to the ears of the priests, and they went to Pi-late and said: "This man Je-sus has said strange



things ; He has claimed that He would rise from the dead in three days. Now, His friends might steal His corpse, so that they could prove His words. Give us guards at His



“In soft lin-en bands, in which were sweet spices, they wrapped His limbs, then they bore Him to the tomb and laid Him to rest.”

tomb.” Pi-late said to them : “ You have a guard ; go your way ; make it as sure as you can.” We know that Pi-late scorned these priests ; we have seen how he mocked them in the sign that he placed on Je-sus’ cross. So he sent them

on their way, and let them work their will ; did he know in his heart that Jesus was in truth the Son of God, and would rise from the dead in spite of all their care ?

The priests placed a guard of strong men at the tomb ; then they put a seal of clay stamped with the seal of Rome on the great stone, so that it could not be moved from the tomb. All that night and the next day, then through the next day and night, which was our Sat-ur-day, Je-sus of Naz-a-reth lay in the tomb, watched by the guards of Rome.

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## CHAPTER XIX.

### THE FIRST EAS-TER.

No guard of strong men, no sealed tomb, could keep Jesus in the grave. On the first day of the week, long ere the light of the sun had crept in-to the still gar-den, a great white light shone round the tomb ; in its midst stood an an-gel whose face shone like the sun, and whose robes were white as snow. The strong men on guard shook with fear, and as the an-gel rolled the stone from the door of the tomb they fell down in their fright like dead men.

On Sun-day morn, while it was still dark, Ma-ry Mag-da-len and two friends came to the tomb of Je-sus with their rare balm and sweet spi-ces ; but when they reached the spot they saw that the great stone was rolled from the tomb. Ma-ry Mag-da-len did not wait to look in the tomb, but in her fear that the corpse of her Lord had come to some harm, she went back to Je-ru-sa-lem to tell Pe-ter and John that some one had borne Je-sus from the tomb and she did not know where He was laid. The friends whom

Mary had left at the tomb went in to see if they could find a trace of Jesus. What is their awe to see, on the right side, a young man clad in a long, white robe? He calmed



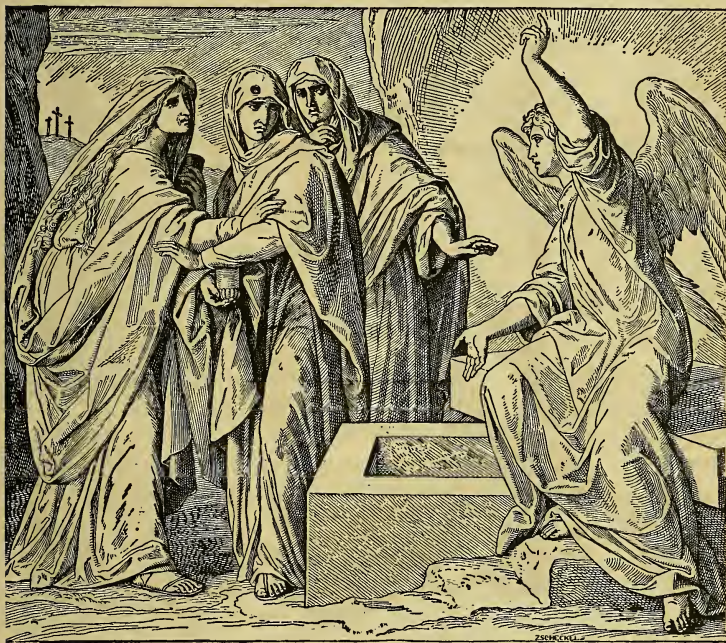
“ On the first day of the week, an angel rolled the stone from the door of the tomb and Jesus came forth.

their fears at once, and brought joy to their hearts as well. For he said : “ Do not fear ; you seek Jesus of Naz-a-reth, who died on the cross. He is not here ; He rose from the dead as He said that He would. Come see the place where



He lay. Then go in haste and tell Pe-ter and all His friends that He has gone to Gal-i-lee, where they shall meet Him."

The two wom-en went out in great haste ; they told none



" The An-gel said ' Do not fear ; you seek Je-sus of Naz-a-reth. He is not here ; He rose from the dead.' "

whom they met of this great thing, but bore it as quick as they could to the friends of Je-sus. But the dis-ci-ples did not see the truth of their words, and still mourned Je-sus as dead.



The word brought by Ma-ry Mag-da-len to Pe-ter and John caused them to start in haste for the tomb of Je-sus. John reached the spot first and leaned down to look in ; he



“ Ma-ry Mag-da-len did not go home, she stood by the tomb and wept for her dead Mas-ter.”

saw but the soft, white bands in which the limbs of Je-sus had been wrapped.

Pe-ter did not stop at the door of the tomb ; he was in too much haste ; he went in the tomb. Now the graveclothes

of Je-sus lay in neat folds, each one in its own place ; they had not been torn off as if by rude hands and thrown down in haste and fear. John now went in, and when he and Pe-ter saw how the clothes lay, they knew not what to



“ ‘ Mary,’ said Je-sus ; she fell at His feet and cried out, ‘ Master.’ ”

think. They went to their homes with sad hearts, for they did not yet see that Je-sus had come back to life.

Ma-ry Mag-da-len did not go home ; she stood by the tomb and wept for her dead Mas-ter ; and as her tears

flowed, she leaned down and looked in the tomb. The place where Je-sus had laid was, in truth, bare, but on each side sat an an-gel form clad in white.

At the sight, so fair and bright, peace seemed to fall on her sad heart, and when they asked her why she wept, she said: "They have ta-ken a-way my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." Then Ma-ry turned her head, and at her side stood Je-sus; she did not know Him, though, for the light of the morn was dim, and her eyes were full of tears. He, too, asked why she wept; she thought He was the man in charge of Jo-seph's place, and so said: "Sir, if you have borne him off, tell me where you have laid Him, that I may take care of Him."

A soft voice which she knew well fell on her ears; it was her name in the loved tone of her Lord:—"Ma-ry." Ma-ry knew Him then and fell at His feet and cried out, "Mas-ter"; she would have clasped the dear feet in her hands, but Je-sus told her that she must not touch Him, for He had not yet gone up to His Fath-er. He bade her go and tell the dis-ci-ples that soon He would rise to His Fath-er and theirs—to His God and theirs.

In the mean-time the guards had gone to Je-ru-sa-lem and told their strange tale to the priests. When the priests had talked of this, they gave gold to the guards and bade them say that while they slept his friends had come and borne Je-sus from the tomb. If Pi-late should hear that they slept at their post, the priests said, they would save them from his wrath.

## CHAPTER XX.

## JE-SUS COMES TO HIS DIS-CI-PLES.

LATE in the day two of the dis-ci-ples walked toward a small town called Em-ma-us. Their talk was, of course, of the sad death of Je-sus. A man met them, who joined in the talk and seemed to know naught of Je-sus, for He asked a-bout His life and death. One of them named Cle-o-pas said: "Do you live in Je-ru-sa-lem, and yet not know of the things which have come to pass?" The man said: "What things?" Then said they: "Why, of Je-sus of Naz-a-reth; of the great things that He did; of the wise words that He spoke; of how the priests and those who rule us have put Him to death on the cross? We had hoped that it was He who should rule us, but it is now the third day since His death. Some wom-en went to His tomb at dawn and found that He was not there. They said that they had seen an-gels who told them He yet lived. Some men who were His friends then went and found that He was gone, but we know not now where He is." Then the man said to them: "Oh, fools, and so slow of heart to trust all that the wise men of old said of Je-sus! Did He not have to bear all these things to prove His words?" Then He spoke to them of all the things that had been said of the Mes-si-ah by Mo-ses and the rest of the wise men of the Jews in the years long past. He showed them that Je-sus of Naz-a-reth had done all that it had been said the Mes-si-ah would do; and yet, still their eyes were so blind, and their hearts so dull, that they did not know this strange man was the Christ.



When they reached Em-ma-us, Jesus made as if He would keep on His way; but they, though they did not know Him, wished Him to stay with them; and they said: "Stay with us, the night is near." So He went in with



Je-sus and the two dis-ci-ples at Em-ma-us.

them to the house where they were to stay; but when they sat down to their meal Jesus made them know Him. He took the bread in His hands, as He had done at the Last Supper, and He blessed it and broke it and gave it to them.

Then joy filled their hearts! They knew their Lord had come back to them from the dead! But, while they looked at Him and pressed close to Him, His form grew dim and soon they could see Him no more. Then they were grieved and said: "Why did our hearts not know Him as He talked with us on the way?" They rose at once and went straight to Je-ru-sa-lem; here they found the rest of the disciples, who had met by stealth, and with locked doors for fear of the Jews. They told them how Jesus had met them, and that they had not known Him till He broke the bread and blessed it.

While they spoke of these things, Jesus stood in their midst and said: "Peace be with you." They thought it was His ghost and fear fell on them, but He said: "Why do you fear? Why do you think that it is not I in the flesh that stands here? See my hands and my feet—touch me and see. A ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see that I have." When they looked on the nail wounds in His feet and hands, and saw the marks of the spear in His side, joy filled their sad hearts. But lest they should still doubt, Jesus said: "Have you something here to eat?" They brought Him a bit of broiled fish and He ate it; then they were sure that the Jesus who stood with them was a man of flesh and blood, and not a ghost. Then Jesus said to them: "Peace be with you all; as the Father sent me to the world so do I send you."

Thom-as was not with the disciples on the night that Jesus came to them, and when he was told of it, he doubted that it was the truth. He said: "I can-not think it was He till I can see and touch the prints of the nails in His hands and feet, and put my hand in the wound in His side." Eight days from then, when it was once more the Lord's

day, Thom-as met with the rest of the dis-ci-ples. When the doors were all shut, Je-sus stood once more in their midst, and said : "Peace be with you." Then He turned to Thom-as and said : "Reach forth your hand and touch the prints of the nails. Put your hand in My side, and doubt no more, but have faith." Thom-as did not have to touch the cruel scars that spoke of Je-sus' love; at the sight of Je-sus, at the sound of His voice, he knew his Lord, and cried : "My Lord and my God."

For six weeks now Je-sus came and went on the earth; some of His dis-ci-ples went back to their old work, and it is on the shores of the lake of Gal-i-lee that we once more hear of Je-sus with His dis-ci-ples. Pe-ter and four or five more have gone out in a boat to fish; they toiled all night, but caught no fish. When the dawn broke they saw Je-sus on the shore, but they did not know Him. He asked if they had caught aught to eat, and when they told Him that they had not, He told them to cast the net on the right side of the boat and they should find fish. They did so, and a great load of fish filled the net so that they could not draw it up. Then John told Pe-ter that this must be Je-sus; at this thought Pe-ter did not wait for the fish; he thought but to reach the Mas-ter. He flung his coat round him, for he had no clothes on while he was hard at work, and then sprang from the boat and strode through the waves to Je-sus. The rest of the men came to the shore in the boat and dragged the net of fish with them. When they reached the land they found a fire of coals, with fish laid on it, and bread. Je-sus told them to bring some of their own fish, and they found that their net was full. Then Je-sus told them to draw near and eat; they did so, and none asked who He was, for they knew it was the Lord. Je-sus then gave them of the bread



and fish, and when the meal was through He turned to Pe-ter and spoke such words of love that they soothed the sad heart of this dis-ci-ple, who still grieved sore for the great wrong he had done his Lord.



“ Then He turned to Thomas and said, ‘ Put your hand in my side, and doubt no more, but have faith.’ ”

Pe-ter was now made to feel that though, for fear of death, he had three times sworn he did not know Je-sus, yet Je-sus had now wiped all this out, and wished to put a great work in his hands. “ Pe-ter, son of John,” said Je-sus, “ Do you love



me more than all these?" Pe-ter did not boast as he once did, but he said in firm tones, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Then Je-sus told him to care for the weak and the poor of this world; He said, "Feed my lambs." Once more Je-sus asked, "Si-mon, son of John, do you love me?" And Peter said, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Then said Je-sus, "Watch and care for my sheep." Je-sus meant by His sheep those who were old in years and yet stood in need of care and love. For the third time, Je-sus asked, "Si-mon, son of John, do you love me?" Pe-ter was grieved that Je-sus should ask him three times if he loved Him, and he said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Je-sus then, for the last time, said to Pe-ter, "Feed my sheep."

He then spoke to Pe-ter of the way in which he would die; He said to him: "When you were young, you did gird you and walk where you pleased; but when you are old, strange hands will gird you and take you where you do not wish to go." Pe-ter lived to be a ver-y old man, and his life was full of great and good works done in the name of Je-sus. At last the words that Je-sus had said came true, for bad men did gird him and bind him to the cross, as they had bound Je-sus.

It is said that when Pe-ter was nailed to the cross, he begged to be hung with his head down, as he was not fit to die as Je-sus had done.

When Pe-ter had heard what his own life would be, he asked Je-sus what was to come to John, whom he knew that Je-sus loved the best of all His dis-ci-ples. Je-sus would not tell him; He but said: "If it is my will that he should stay here till I come, what is that to you?"

Once more in Je-ru-sa-lem, Je-sus met His dis-ci-ples; now

He told them what their work on earth must be ; they must not go back to their old work, but stay in Je-ru-sa-lem till pow-er from God was sent to them. Then they should go out in the world and bear the word of God to all lands. Then He told them that they should do all the things that He had done—heal the sick, make the blind to see, and the deaf to hear, and raise the dead. They should touch dead-ly things and yet come to no harm. He told them, too, that though they could not see Him, He would still be in their hearts, and would guide and help them. “Lo,” He said at the last, “I am with you at all times, to the end of the world.” We must bear these words in our hearts, for Je-sus is now just as near each lit-tle child as He was to the dis-ci-ples of old. His voice speaks in your hearts and tells you what He wills that you should do.

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## CHAPTER XXI.

### JE-SUS GOES HOME TO HIS FATH-ER.

AT last the day came when Je-sus felt that His own work on earth was done, that He could now go back to His Fath-er and leave the work in the hands of His dis-ci-ples.

So He called the dis-ci-ples to Him, and led them out of Je-ru-sa-lem toward the lit-tle town of Beth-a-ny, where was the home of Laz-a-rus. He chose Mount Ol-i-vet as the place from which to leave this world, and when He and His dis-ci-ples were on the top of the mount they looked on Him for the last time, then rais-ing His hands, He blessed them. While they yet heard His dear voice, and looked on the face they loved so well, the voice ceased, and the form and face grew dim. A cloud seemed to hide Him from their view,

and as they stood and strained their eyes to see Him once more a voice was heard at their side. They saw two men in white robes who said to them: "Oh, men of Gal-i-lee, why do you stand and gaze? This same Je-sus, who has



The As-cen-sion.

gone from your sight, shall come once more to earth in this same way."

Then the dis-ci-ples went back to Je-ru-sa-lem ; they went to a house, where, in a room on the top floor, they met

Mary, the moth-er of Je-sus, His broth-ers, and some women who had loved Him.

They stayed ten days in Je-ru-sa-lem to wait for the pow-er which Je-sus had said God would send to them. At the end of that time one day, when they were all in one room, there came a noise like a great wind ; it was so loud that it filled the whole house. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire, and these rested on their heads. At once they knew that the Ho-ly Spir-it of God had come to them and filled them with might and power. They found that they could speak in strange tongues, so that all the great crowd that came to Je-ru-sa-lem from all parts of the world knew what they said. Filled with this new strange pow-er, they went out in the cit-y, and told all whom they met of the love of Je-sus. Nor did they cease from that day to preach God's word and do His work. Far and near, they spread the glad news of Je-sus' love for man, and crowds came to them as they had to Je-sus, and brought their sick and their weak to be treated.

They turned from none ; they did good to all ; they tried to walk in the same path that the feet of Je-sus had trod. It brought some of them to death, and all bore much pain and woe for the sake of the Mas-ter. But His love was in their hearts, and His words soothed them when the hours were dark. By their words and works they brought many to Je-sus. It was a great work that these first dis-ci-ples of Je-sus did ; but not one of you chil-dren is too small to do the work of the dear Sa-viour. Just think of His great love for you, and then try each day to do just as He would wish you to, so you can do His work and show to the world how much you love Him.

THE END.





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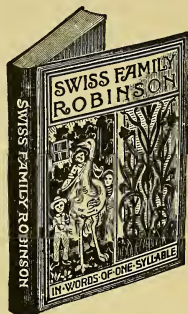
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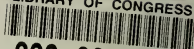
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